

July 26th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 27th July 2022 at 7:00 pm** in **Virtual via Zoom**.


Agenda

Virtual Meeting Guidance

 *Guidance for virtual Council meetings.pdf*

Not included

Agenda

 *C 27.07.2022 Agenda.pdf*


Page 1

1. **Prayer**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Mayor's Business**
5. **Mayor and Deputy Mayor Engagements for the Month (Copy attached)**

 *5. July 2022.pdf*

Page 5

6. **Minutes of Council Meeting held on 29 June 2022 (Copy attached)**

 *C 29.06.2022 Minutes.pdf*

Not included

 *C 29.06.2022 Minutes PM.pdf*

Page 7

7 Minutes of Committees

- 7.1. **Minutes of Meeting of Audit Committee date 27 June 2022**

Copy attached

 *AC 27.06.2022 Minutes.pdf*

Not included

 *AC 27.06.2022 MinutesPM.pdf*

Page 34

- 7.2. **Planning Committee dated 5 July 2022 (Copy attached)**

Copy attached

 *PC.05.07.22 Minutes.pdf*

Not included

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

Copy attached

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

Copy attached.

8. Consultation Documents

8.1. Consultation on Proposal to Publish RQIA Inspection Reports relating to Children's Services

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

8.2. DAERA Consultation on Management of Fast Craft and PWCs in Marine Protected Areas

Report attached

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

Correspondence attached

9. Courses & Conferences

9.1 APSE Annual Seminar and Service Awards 2022 Swansea: Wednesday 14 – Thursday 15 September 2022

Report attached

[9.1. Attendance at APSE Seminar and AGM final - sr.pdf](#) Page 94

[9.1. apse email.pdf](#) Page 96

10. Grant of Outdoor Entertainment Licence (Report attached)

[10. Grant of Outdoor Entertainment Licence.pdf](#) Page 99

11. Bangor Ladies Choir (Report attached)

[11 Bangor Choir SR updated.pdf](#) Page 101

[11 Appendix 1 - Bangor Ladies Choir - Letter to Council 31.5.22.pdf](#) Page 102

12. Requests to Light Up Council Buildings (Report attached)

[12. - Requests to light up Council buildings.pdf](#) Page 103

13. Sea Swimming Consultation (Report attached)

[13. Sea Swimming Consultation Update.pdf](#) Page 106

[13. Letter from DAERA dated 16th June 2022.pdf](#) Page 109

14. Sports Forum Grants (Report attached)

[14. Sports Forum Grants.pdf](#) Page 115

[14. Appendix 1 - Successful Coaching.pdf](#) Page 117

[14. Appendix 2 - Successful Events.pdf](#) Page 118

[14. Appendix 3 - Successful Gold Cards.pdf](#) Page 120

[14. Appendix 4 - Successful Travel.pdf](#) Page 121

[14. Appendix 5 - Unsuccessful Applications.pdf](#) Page 129

15. Blue Plaque in Honour of Viscount Castlereagh (Report attached)

[15. Blue Plaque in Honour of Viscount Castlereagh v2 \(003\) - SR.pdf](#) Page 131

[15. Appendix. Location of Blue Plaque v2.pdf](#) Page 133

16. Sealing Documents

17. Transfer of Rights of Burial

18. Notice of Motion Status Report (Report attached)

▯ *18. NOM Covering Report - July.pdf*

Page 135

▯ *18. NoM Tracker July 2022.pdf*

Page 136

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.

19.2. Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman 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;

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.




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)

 a) <i>South Eastern Trust Consultation Outcome.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 b) <i>DAERA Audit of Inequalities 2021-2025 - Easyread.PDF</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 b) <i>DAERA Outcome Report.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 c) <i>Homes for Ukraine Update.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>

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

20. Request from CRCP to Install a Kitchen at Comber Community Centre (Report attached)

 20. <i>Request from CRCP to install a kitchen at Comber Community Garden.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 20. <i>Appendix 1 - request from CRCP - map.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
 20. <i>Appendix 2 - request from CRCP - drawings of new kitchen area.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>

21. Hardship Payment

 21. <i>Hardship Report updated 22 July 2022.pdf</i>	<i>Not included</i>
---	---------------------

- 22. Play Development Officer Business Case (Report attached)**
- 📎 *22. Play Development Officer Business Case.pdf* *Not included*

 - 📎 *22. Appendix 1 Business Case.pdf* *Not included*

 - 📎 *22. Appendix 2 Job Description.pdf* *Not included*
- 23. Request to use Town Hall Chamber for Holocaust Memorial event**
- Report attached
- 📎 *23. Chamber request January 2023 sr.pdf* *Not included*
- 24. Levelling Up Applications – Requests for Letters of Support (Report attached)**
- 📎 *24. requests for letters of support.pdf* *Not included*
- 25. Staffing Matter (Report attached)**
- 📎 *25. Staffing Matter.pdf* *Not included*
- 26. Single Tender Action (Report attached)**
- 📎 *26. Single Tender Action.pdf* *Not included*

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

21 July 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, 27 July 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 July 2022 (Copy attached)
6. Minutes of Council meeting dated 29 June 2022 (Copy attached)
7. Minutes of Committees (Copies attached)
 - 7.1. Minutes of Audit Committee dated 27 June 2022
 - 7.2. Minutes of Planning Committee dated 5 July 2022
 - 7.3. Minutes of Planning Committee Pre-Determination Hearing dated 20 July 2022
 - 7.4. Minutes of Special Meeting of the Planning Committee dated 20 July 2022
8. Consultation Documents
 - 8.1 Consultation on Proposal to Publish RQIA Inspection Reports relating to Children's Services – Closing Date 20 October 2022 (Letter attached)
 - 8.2 DAERA Consultation on Management of Fast Craft and PWCs in Marine Protected Areas (Report attached)

- 8.3. 'Gas (Designation of Pipe-lines) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022'
(Correspondence attached)
9. Courses and Conferences
 - 9.1 APSE Annual Seminar and Service Awards 2022 Swansea:
Wednesday 14 – Thursday 15 September 2022 (Report attached)
10. Grant of Outdoor Entertainment Licence (Report attached)
11. Bangor Ladies Choir (Report attached)
12. Requests to Light Up Council Buildings (Report attached)
13. Sea Swimming Consultation (Report attached)
14. Sports Forum Grants (Report attached)
15. Blue Plaque in Honour of Viscount Castlereagh (Report attached)
16. Sealing Documents
17. Transfer of Rights of Burial
18. Notice of Motion Status Report (Report attached)
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.

19.2. Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman 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;

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.

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)

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

- 20 Request from Comber Regeneration Community Partnership to Install a Kitchen at Comber Community Centre (Report attached)
- 21. Hardship Payment (Report attached)
- 22. Play Development Officer Business Case (Report attached)
- 23. Request to use Town Hall Chamber for Holocaust Memorial event (Report attached)
- 24. Levelling Up Applications – Requests for Letters of Support (Report attached)
- 25. Staffing Matter (Report attached)
- 26. Single Tender Action (Report to attached)

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

LIST OF MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS
FOR JULY 2022

Saturday 2 July

11:00 hours **Deputy Mayor** – The Market on the Square – Market Square, Portaferry

Sunday 3 July

14:00 hours **Deputy Mayor** – Somme Commemoration – War Memorial, Ward Park, Bangor

15:00 hours **Deputy Mayor** – Music in the Park – Ward Park, Bangor

Tuesday 5 July

10:00 hours PR Photo – High Street Heroes Public Vote – Outside Jenny Watts, High Street, Bangor

10:30 hours Reception for High Street Heroes / Chambers of Commerce – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor

13:00 hours Meeting with Bangor Foodbank – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor

14:15 hours Visit to Inspire's Enterprise Court – Enterprise Road, Bangor

17:30 hours Film Screening at Queen's Film Theatre – University Square, Belfast

Wednesday 6 July

11:00 hours Interview with 50:50 – Via Zoom

14:00 hours PR Photo for Over 50s – Town Hall, Bangor

15:00 hours PR Photo – Ireland's Best Kept Awards Finalist – Donaghadee Harbour

Thursday 7 July

09:30 hours Meeting with Ards Foodbank – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor

11:00 hours Launch Event – Ards Peninsula Kite Festival – Playground at Millisle Beach Carpark

Friday 8 July

12:15 hours 76th Bangor Open Bowls Tournament 2022 – Ward Park Pavilion, Bangor

Saturday 9 July

16:00 hours Ballyholme Yacht Club Annual Regatta – Ballyholme Yacht Club, Bangor

Thursday 14 July

15:00 hours The Narrow Series Regatta – Shore Road, Portaferry

Friday 15 July

11:00 hours Visit by Action Mental Health Promote – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor

Saturday 16 July

15:00 hours Commodore's Reception Cockle Island Boat Club – Groomsport Boathouse

Wednesday 20 July

10:00 hours Visit by Youth Group from Holywood Family Trust – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor

11:00 am PR Photograph for Mayor's Charities – Town Hall, Bangor

Friday 22 July

12:30 hours Lady Captain's Annual Charity Day – Kirkistown Castle Golf Club, Kirkistown

16:00 hours Talk of the Walk – The Market House, The Square, Portaferry

Saturday 23 July

10:00 hours Launch of Accessible Beach Equipment – Groomsport Beach

Tuesday 26 July

10:00 hours 2022-23 Green Flag Awards – Brownlow House, Windsor Avenue, Lurgan

Wednesday 27 July

10:30 hours Visit to the Simon Community – 41/45 Central Avenue, Bangor

12:30 hours Meeting re International Coastal Clean Up Day – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor

Thursday 28 July

11:00 hours Photocall – Launch of HGV Academy and LMP – Town Hall, Bangor

11:30 hours Reception for the Launch of HGV Academy and LMP – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor

18:30 hours Creative Peninsula Launch Event – Ards Arts Centre, Conway Square, Newtownards

20:30 hours Abba Sensations Open Air Concert – Comber

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Ards and North Down Borough Council was held remotely using Zoom on Wednesday, 29 June 2022 commencing at 7.00pm.

In the Chair: The Mayor (Councillor Douglas)

Aldermen:

Armstrong-Cotter	Keery
Carson	McDowell
Gibson	McIlveen
Girvan	M Smith
W Irvine	Wilson

Councillors:

Adair	Kendall
Blaney	MacArthur
Boyle	McAlpine
Brooks	McClellan
Cathcart	McKee
Cooper	McKimm
Cummings	McRandal
Dunlop	Moore
Edmund (7.49 pm)	Smart
Gilmour	P Smith
Johnson	T Smith
S Irvine	Thompson
Irwin	Walker
Kennedy	

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

1. PRAYER

The Mayor, Councillor Douglas, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the Chief Executive to read the Council prayer.

NOTED.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Chambers and Councillor Greer.

NOTED.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor asked for any Declarations of Interest and none were made.

NOTED.

4. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor said she was delighted to be chairing her first full Council meeting following her nomination to the position on 1st June. She reflected on what had been a very busy but enjoyable first month.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Vicki Moore and Councillor Hannah Irwin who were attending their first Council meeting having replaced Nick Mathison and Connie Egan, following their election to the Northern Ireland Assembly in May.

There were a number of events she wished to highlight, beginning with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations from 2nd to 4th June reflecting on a series of events held to mark the occasion, including the lighting of official beacons in Newtownards, Bangor and Ballyhalbert.

While there had been a large number of community events across the Borough, the Mayor's highlight had been welcoming the Earl and Countess of Wessex to Bangor as part of the Sea Bangor weekend events. She described it as an amazing privilege and very fitting so soon after the announcement of the award of City Status upon Bangor by Her Majesty The Queen. She recalled that it had been fantastic to be part of the very warm welcome to the Borough which the Royal couple enjoyed.

The Mayor also highlighted what had been a very successful conferment of the Freedom of the Borough upon the Irish Guards, the previous weekend. This was just the second conferment of the Freedom of the Borough bestowed by the Council since it formed in 2015 and only the fourth such invitation accepted by the Irish Guards in their 122 year history. It had been a very special weekend for all involving the formal Conferment ceremony in the Culloden Hotel on Friday evening, the band concert at the McKee Clock Arena in Bangor and then the Parade and Drumhead Service on Saturday morning in Newtownards. It had been very pleasing to see such a great turnout for the parade and service in particular, and it was with great pride that the Mayor had represented all of the people of the Borough carrying out the inspection of the parade and took the salute as the Guards exercised their rights to march through the town with bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying.

The Mayor was also delighted to have on display this evening in Bangor Castle the gift of the Regimental Colours which were received from the Irish Guards in gratitude for conferment of Freedom of the Borough upon them.

She recognised that much effort and planning had gone on into making those events such a success and thanked all of the staff involved.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Girvan, seconded by Councillor T Smith, that the Mayor's comments be noted.

5. MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2022

(Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Engagements for the month of June 2022.

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

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Irwin, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the information be noted.

6. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Copy of the above minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Brooks, seconded by Councillor Blaney, that the minutes be adopted.

7. MINUTES OF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Copy of the above minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Adair, seconded by Alderman M Smith, that the minutes be adopted.

8. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

8.1 Planning Committee dated 19 May 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

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

8.2. Planning Committee dated 07 June 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

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

8.3. Environment Committee dated 08 June 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Proposed by Alderman McDowell, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the minutes be adopted.

Item 9 – Shared Island Initiative - Development Funding Application, Coastal Erosion Management

(Alderman McDowell declared an interest in the above item of the minutes and was withdrawn from the meeting for the duration of the discussion – 7.12pm)

Councillor T Smith asked to be recorded as against the recommendation in the above item of the minutes. He described the aims of coastal erosion management itself as benign and had no objection with the north and south of Ireland working together. His concerns though were with the wider objectives of the Shared Island Initiative, which backed by the Irish Government, aimed to create a shared future, harmonisation and develop an all Ireland economy. Those objectives he felt were at odds with Northern Ireland's position in the United Kingdom and a non member of the European Union. He pointed to the difficulties of the Northern Ireland Protocol and the challenges regarding trade between Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

It had left Northern Ireland trapped in the Single Market and forced to comply with Irish regulations and that did not reflect a shared future for anyone from the Unionist community and therefore swept 'clean away' the project's aims for a joint consensus. An all Ireland economy would only therefore further weaken the link between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. He felt that the Council should not be collaborators and could not understand why the Council would want to be involved.

Councillor Cooper expressed the same view, adding that it was a continuation of the intrusion of the EU and Irish Government seeking to further harmonise and develop an all-Ireland economy.

NOTED.

(Alderman McDowell returned to the meeting)

Item 4 - Northern Ireland Local Authority Municipal Waste Management Statistics, October to December 2021

Councillor P Smith noted the slight changes to the kerbside recycling statistics with a slight reduction on the previous year, but felt the major issue was with the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) figures which showed considerably more tonnage compared to other Councils with only 60% of the additional waste being recycled compared to 70% by other Councils. He asked for reassurances that the Borough's HRCs were being prioritised.

The Director of Environment confirmed that HRCs were the priority but warned that kerbside recycling rates at just under 50% compared poorly with other Council areas

and fell below UK recycling targets. He further warned that the new Climate Act had come in to legislation and set a 70% recycling target by 2030. While he understood the immediate priority of addressing HRC waste collection rates, achieving the longer term 70% kerbside collection recycling targets would require focus on both areas of waste collection.

Councillor P Smith noted Council ranked mid-table in terms of performance across the 11 Councils of Northern Ireland and asked what level of recycling the top performing Council was achieving.

The Director advised that Mid Ulster was hitting 60% and that rate was a continuation carried over from legacy council arrangements, though that Council was still 10% off the Climate Act requirements.

The Director added that Conwy Council in Wales, the highest achiever in the UK, had implemented structural changes that aligned closely with what had been discussed recently in Ards and North Down with the Party Leaders.

Item 3 - Replacement of Kerbside Glass Collection Vehicles and New Kerbside Waste Textile Recycling Service

Councillor Adair welcomed the introduction of textile recycling as part of the Council's kerbside collection offering and asked if there were any plans to widen the service to include other materials. He understood many other Councils in the UK were now collecting electrical appliances as part of their kerbside recycling services.

The Director explained that the matter had been discussed at the Committee and added that textiles had been introduced first as it represented the next highest category of recyclable materials and would bring a higher return than electrical appliances. It was the intention to provide collections for other materials in order of the highest yield both in terms of materials and financially. Council would be aiming to work down a list of different categories in that order.

Councillor Adair welcomed that and felt that the best way to improve recycling rates would be through kerbside collection services.

NOTED.

With the exception of Councillor T Smith and Councillor Cooper, Members agreed the minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McDowell, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the minutes be adopted.

8.4. Regeneration and Development Committee dated 09 June 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

8.4.1. Matter Arising - Addendum Report regarding the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme (FILE RDP43)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report from the Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning detailing the undernoted:

Background

At the meeting of the Regeneration and Development Committee on 9 June 2022, the Small Settlements Regeneration Programme was reported under Item 19. A verbal update was given by the Head of Regeneration, regarding project delays due to awaiting sign-off for the procurement structure by the Department for Communities/CPD. It was recommended that, were this not received, the Council write to the Department for Communities expressing concern with the timeframe for the scheme and reiterating the urgency to receive sign off on the procurement strategy.

Update

The Department for Communities had since confirmed CPD's approval of the Procurement Strategy, which enabled the Scheme to progress as per Letter of Offer. No further action was, therefore, required at this time.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes this Addendum to the Minutes of RDC.09.06.2022(19).

The Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning outlined the report, advising that confirmation from the Department for Communities had now approved the funding application and the Council had received a letter of offer for the scheme which no longer required the Council to follow up as recommended in the minutes. Members would be updated as the scheme progressed.

Proposed by Councillor McKimm, seconded by Councillor Adair that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Adair welcomed the update, having raised the initial matter at the committee meeting. It represented almost £2M of funding made available to rural projects and he looked forward to the projects developing. The funding would make a lasting difference for those communities and it had been well received across the Borough. He thanked officers for drawing up the projects and achieving the funding.

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

Proposed by Councillor McKimm, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the minutes be adopted.

Item 6 - Economic Development Annual Activity Report 2021-22

In relation to the above item Councillor McKimm said he had noted that a cohort of young protestant males had been identified as struggling to access education and he had queried if there was any information as to what the barriers were. The requested information was to be sought from the delivery partners and Councillor McKimm asked if officers had been given a response.

The Director advised that the Head of Economic Development was following that up and it would be passed on to Members as soon as possible.

As a point of interest, Councillor McAlpine explained that a report entitled a Fair Start had identified 47 actions from early years to teenage years on what needed to be addressed and the Department of Education had been working on that and was due to issue its own report.

Item 11 - Five Chambers of Commerce/Trade Plans 2022-24

Councillor P Smith advised that he had not been in attendance at the meeting but had been recorded as speaking on the above item. He clarified that the speaker had been Alderman M Smith.

Item 7 - East Border Westminster Exchange Visit

Councillor T Smith referred to the above item and agreed with Councillor Gilmour's comments as recorded in the minutes. He felt that there was no reason why conferences could not be held on Zoom, particularly given the concerns of climate change and the impacts of all the attendees travelling to it. He felt that the carbon footprint could be greatly reduced by doing so and would not be supporting Item 7 of the minutes.

Item 9 - Donaghadee Commons Masterplan Update

Councillor T Smith explained that he was not comfortable with all elements of what was included within the Donaghadee Commons Masterplan, pointing to the desired location of a visitor hub and asked if the existing Household Recycling Centre would need to make way for it.

The Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning confirmed that the visitor centre was shown in the Masterplan as being located at the site of the existing HRC, subject though to public consultation, further design and planning permission.

Councillor T Smith felt that residents, while supportive of a visitor centre, might not be fully aware of the potential implications for the HRC. He highlighted further concerns around the potential loss of green space and lighter tiles used in the proposed pathway upgrades, but he felt agreement to the Masterplan was too big a decision to make at this stage and that the Masterplan needed to be taken back to the public for feedback. He indicated that he wished to make an amendment.

Councillor T Smith proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Brooks, that before adopting the Masterplan, the Council would hold a series of public meetings in Donaghadee to discuss the proposals with the public. Members would encourage feedback and that feedback would then be brought back to the Council before a final decision was made.

On proposing, Councillor T Smith, felt that it was vital to have public support for such an important long term strategy and while he wanted to see as much of the

Masterplan progressed as possible, he wanted to make sure that the Council was bringing the public along with it.

The seconder, Councillor Brooks, advised that he had not been in attendance at the Committee meeting due to technical difficulties and had been unable to bring his own queries around the item.

Supportive of the proposed amendment, he agreed that it was important to ensure that the strategy had the backing of the people of Donaghadee. While he welcomed the inclusion of a visitor centre in the strategy, he also had concerns around the HRC and how that would be impacted. Reflecting on changes over the years, he had noted that some had been good and some bad and it was therefore important to ensure the long-term vision had public support.

(Councillor Edmund joined the meeting – 7.49pm)

Alderman Carson understood that someone he believed was one of the most active Councillors in that DEA had not been aware of the consultation and asked the Director if all DEA members had been notified and invited to meetings throughout the consultation process. The Director commented that she understood that the consultation was promoted widely through the Council's website and through social media to encourage attendance from as many people as possible.

In terms of the HRC, Alderman Carson asked if there was accommodation in the Masterplan for it to be located elsewhere. The Director advised the Masterplan was a vision and at this stage there was no position on any potential relocation of the HRC. There would be time at a later stage to look at that phase of detailed work which would be undertaken with Environmental Services and she wished to emphasise the point that this was a strategic Masterplan.

Councillor Kendall supported the amendment, adding that it was important that the public had sight of the plans and were fully involved in the process.

Councillor Boyle congratulated the Mayor on her appointment and wished her well in the coming year. He saw the validity of consultation but asked the Director how long AECOM had been carrying out the consultation to date and who that consultation had taken place with.

The Director advised that there had been significant public consultation with many of those meetings having taken place over Zoom due to Coronavirus restrictions. Those meetings had been available to anyone who wanted to register for them. She recalled at a session she had attended there had been a large number connected including elected representatives.

Councillor Boyle would not want to see a 25 year plan be agreed without Member or public consensus but recognised that not everyone would be happy with the level of consultation or what was agreed. He understood the importance of the recycling centre, for any community.

Councillor Walker believed that the consultation had been fairly widespread with discussion at the Town Steering Group where some Elected Members chose to attend and some did not. He asked for clarification if the document was aspirational with flexibility on the elements within in it.

The Director confirmed that it was a strategic vision that set out aims of where the Council, with public consultation, wanted to get to. The Masterplan was flexible and nothing was set in stone at this stage.

Councillor Walker was reassured that there would be further consultation on each phase and therefore he felt it was not necessary to have any further consultation at this stage and would not be supporting the amendment.

Councillor MacArthur felt that the amendment was fair given that the previous consultation had been limited to Zoom and not everyone had been able to be involved. She felt it was important to allow for face to face consultation with the community. She noted that the relocation of existing HRC was alluded to in the plan as a 'weakness', and during the consultation when queried, it was advised that the recycling centre would be relocated within Donaghadee and she felt that the issue had been skirted around at the time.

Councillor McKimm supported the amendment and felt it was vital to engage with the public.

On being put to the meeting with 36 voting FOR, 0 voting AGAINST, 2 ABSTAINING and 2 ABSENT, the amendment was CARRIED.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor T Smith, seconded by Councillor Brooks, that before adopting the Masterplan, we will hold a series of public meetings in Donaghadee to discuss the proposals with the public. We will encourage feedback and that feedback will then be brought back to the Council before a final decision is made.

FURTHER RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McKimm, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the minutes be adopted.

8.5. Corporate Services Committee dated 14 June 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Proposed by Councillor P Smith, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that the minutes be adopted.

15(d) NOM 161 – Resurface Bridge Road South

Councillor P Smith recalled that Members had been shocked to hear that the contract for resurfacing works in the Borough had expired in 2021 which meant there was no contractor in place until the later part of 2022. He understood the Chief Executive was contacting DfI for clarity on that and asked if there had been any update.

The Chief Executive advised that there had not been any response yet from DfI but it would be issued to Members as soon as it was received.

NOTED.

Item 17 – City Status

Councillor Cathcart added his congratulations to the Mayor on her recent appointment and welcomed the growing number of events reported this month.

Councillor Cathcart congratulated the team of officers that had worked on the document that was put forward in the Council's successful bid for City status. He felt it was right as proposed by Councillor Gilmour to thank the Queen for the honour bestowed upon Bangor and hoped that Bangor would have a further Royal visit to mark the honour. He queried the formal process involved in terms of the Letters Patent being presented to the Council.

The Chief Executive advised that the Council had been put in touch with the providers of the Letters Patent and a meeting was expected to take place with them over the coming weeks. An update to Members was likely to follow in July.

Councillor Cathcart looked forward to the opportunities that could follow from Bangor's City status and felt there was a lot that could be achieved for the area.

Alderman M Smith added her congratulations to the Mayor on her appointment. She described the document submitted as part of the city status bid by the Council as first class and had contacted the Chief Executive to pass on her thanks to the officers involved. She too looked forward to many good events that Bangor's new status would bring.

NOTED.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that the minutes be adopted.

8.6. Community and Wellbeing Committee dated 15 June 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Proposed by Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the minutes be adopted.

Item 1 - Apologies

Councillor Thompson said he had sent an apology for inability to attend prior to the meeting but it had not been recorded in the minutes.

NOTED.

Item 6 – Summer Scheme Update

As a matter of accuracy, Councillor MacArthur asked that her comments which referenced free school meals on page 9, be amended to 'she thought that discount for children on free school meals could be considered in future'.

NOTED.

Item 11 - Kirkistown Castle 400 Anniversary Further Report on Funding

Councillor Adair referred to a NoM about the 400th Anniversary of Kirkistown Castle and welcomed that £2,500 funding that had been acquired from Northern Ireland Environment Agency along with £1,000 from Trinity Church, Cloughey and £1,500 from the Council to reach the £5,000 total. He looked forward to celebrating the event and expressed gratitude to Trinity Church in particular along with the Council and NIEA. It was an example of what working together could achieve. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that would bring everyone together to celebrate an historic moment in the Borough's history. A community fun day and historical enactments would form part of the celebrations and he thanked the Head of Community and Culture for bringing forward a document showcasing the events.

NOTED.

Item 12 - Access for Dogs to Museum Courtyard Trial Period Proposal

Councillor Cathcart thanked the Director having raised the matter along with Alderman M Smith. He welcomed the trial period and felt it was commonplace for cafes to accommodate dogs, particularly in outside areas. He was aware the operator of the café was keen to see it introduced and he felt that the law needed to change with regards to customers bringing their dogs and felt that society had moved on. He knew that many dog walkers had welcomed the trial.

Alderman M Smith added her thanks. She had been approached by the owner previously and he was more than pleased with the trial period and she hoped it would go beyond that.

NOTED.

Item 27 – Ward Park Update

Councillor Cathcart had a further query in relation to the above item which would be heard in committee.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the minutes be adopted.

9. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

9.1. The Housing Executive's Affirmative Action Plan (Appendix II – III)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- The Housing Executive's Affirmative Action Plan. Closing date for responses was 19th August 2022.

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

10. INVITATIONS

10.1. Somme Sunday Invitation - Royal British Legion, Bangor Branch, parade at the Ward Park War Memorial, 3rd July 2022

The Chief Executive outlined the above invitation received from the Royal British Legion and asked that those Members wishing to attend confirm with Democratic Services.

RECOMMENDED that the information be noted.

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

11. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES (Appendix IV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Chief Executive, detailing that at the Council's Annual Meeting on 22 May 2019, appointments were made to Sub-Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies by way of nomination. Some of those appointments were for a one-year term only. Those one-year appointments were outlined in the tables attached in Appendix 1, including any further changes to the composition of the groups since then.

Nominations were now sought to fill the one-year appointments, and vacancies arising on three of the four-year appointments, as outlined in Appendix 1 for the year 2022/23. All vacancies were highlighted in red text.

Note that one of the groups to which one-year appointments were made at the Annual Meeting in 2020 was no longer meeting and had been removed from the table in the appendix. That was:

- 100th Anniversary of Northern Ireland

RECOMMENDED that Council proceeds to appoint Members to the Sub-Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies listed in Appendix 1 by way of nomination.

Proposed by Alderman McDowell, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the Council re-elects members to the outside bodies as listed in Appendix 1, and seeks to make appointments only to vacant positions by way of nomination.

The Mayor took each of the outside bodies in turn and sought nominations for vacant positions.

Proposed by Alderman McDowell, seconded by Alderman Girvan, that Councillor Irwin be appointed to the Fairtrade Working Group.

AGREED.

Proposed by Alderman McDowell, seconded by Alderman Girvan, that Councillor Moore be appointed as a Diversity Champion.

AGREED.

Proposed by Councillor Boyle, seconded by Alderman Irvine, that Councillor S Irvine be appointed to the Carparking Strategy Working Group.

AGREED.

Proposed by Alderman McDowell, seconded by Alderman Girvan, that Councillor Irwin be appointed to the Bangor Coastal Masterplan – Leadership Group.

AGREED.

Proposed by Councillor Boyle, seconded by Alderman Girvan, that Alderman Irvine be appointed to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum.

AGREED.

Proposed by Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor Adair, that Councillor S Irvine be appointed to the Ards Community Hospital – Multi Agency Forum.

AGREED.

Proposed by Alderman McDowell, seconded by Alderman Girvan, that Councillor Irwin, be appointed to the Youth Council Cross Party Working Group.

AGREED.

Proposed by Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor McKimm, that Councillor S Irvine be appointed to the Somme Heritage Centre Management Committee.

AGREED.

Proposed by Alderman McDowell, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that Councillor Moore be appointed to the Billiard Room Trustees.

AGREED.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McDowell, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the Council re-elects members to the outside bodies as listed in Appendix 1, and makes the above appointments to vacant positions.

12. REQUEST TO LIGHT UP COUNCIL BUILDINGS FOR WORLD FRAGILE X DAY (LP37)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration, detailing the following:

Requestor

FRAXA Research Foundation

Reason for request

To mark World Fragile X Day

Dates and colours

Lighting up Ards Arts Centre / Ards Town Hall and McKee Clock teal on 22 July 2022.

Background information

Fragile X Syndrome is the most common known cause of inherited disability and the leading known single-gene cause of autism. It caused learning and physical disabilities, significant anxiety, ADHD, sensory processing disorder and other conditions.

FRAXA Research Foundation was a non-profit organisation including parents and relatives of people with Fragile X syndrome. They tried to raise awareness of Fragile X syndrome in order to accelerate progress towards effective treatments and a possible cure.

22 July 2022 was World Fragile X Day and FRAXA was working with organisations all over the world to raise awareness of this condition. Each light up was added to the World Fragile X Day map on their website: www.worldfragilexday.com after it was confirmed.

Did 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 the Council considers the request to light up Council buildings teal on 22 July 2022 to mark World Fragile X Day.

Councillor Moore while appreciating the importance of the issue raised a concern around a claim that Fragile X Syndrome was the most common known cause of inherited disability and the leading known single-gene cause of autism.

The Director of Organisational Development and Administration advised she had been contacted by Councillor Moore over the matter and had referred her directly to the applicant. Councillor Moore advised that there had been no contact yet with the

applicant but clarified that her issue was not with Fragile X and raising awareness around the impact it had but more in relation to the specific charity and the position it took in relation to its description of Fragile X as a condition, believing it was factually incorrect. She understood, following her research, that other charities would not support that claim made by the applicant.

Alderman M Smith had initially indicated to propose the recommendation but having heard Councillor Moore's concerns now decided not to do this. She felt it was right to support the cause but felt that concerns about the applicant should be cleared up before agreeing to the request.

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

Despite the potential inaccuracies, Councillor Kendall felt that the condition itself deserved the Council's support and the potential misinformation did not take away from the cause as a whole. Alderman McIlveen agreed that it was important not to lose sight of the condition and noted Councillor Moore's concerns over the claims but felt that World Fragile X Day needed to be highlighted.

Councillor Edmund spoke about the impacts on families and felt it important that the Council did what it could to raise awareness of the condition and to consider the people affected.

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

13. TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF A SUITABLE ELECTRIC VEHICLE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTOR (77076)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment, dated 13 June 2022, detailing that in December 2021 a report was brought updating Members on work the Council has undertaken as part of a wider NI Consortium on Electric vehicle charging.

Derry City and Strabane District Council was leading a Consortium of nine of the Councils in Northern Ireland to secure funding through ORCS (On-street Residential Charge Point Scheme) to procure, install, operate and maintain 124 EV Charge Points throughout NI. The ORCS scheme covered 75% of the capital costs with the remaining 25% costs matched by Department for Infrastructure. The funding application was currently being assessed by OZEV (Office of Zero Emissions Vehicles) and a decision was expected in the next few weeks.

Ards and North Down Borough Council had submitted fifteen points across ten locations as part of this bid and was currently awaiting a response on this.

Derry City and Strabane District Council was now seeking to appoint a CPO (Charge Point Operator) to procure, install, operate and maintain the planned 124 charge points through a public procurement process within the Crown Commercial Services Framework: Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Solutions (ref No: RM6213). The tender

process was expected to be completed by the autumn with an appointment of a CPO in late September or early October 2022.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approves participation in the contract to be led by Derry City and Strabane District Council for a Charge Point Operator, as outlined in this report.

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

Councillor P Smith spoke to welcome the progress and that the lack of charging points had been well aired by Members and he hoped that the Council would be successful in its bid for funding. He asked when the charging points would be implemented.

The Director of Environment explained that the Council would await the outcome of tender but he understood that the funding would need to be spent in the current financial year.

Alderman McIlveen was pleased to hear of Councillor P Smith's support for the charging points, given what he felt had been a failure on the part of both legacy Council in the uptake of a match funding offer from DRD for charging points. He had been supportive at the time and had continued to try and get charging points in the Borough. There was also a proposal in relation to the Borough's car parks and looked forward to a variety of schemes being implemented.

Councillor Thompson asked if there were plans to install the charging points in the Ards Peninsula and it was advised that there was wide coverage around the Borough and this was one of a number of schemes to improve the infrastructure for charging.

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

14. SEALING DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED: - (On the proposal of Alderman Carson, seconded by Councillor Edmund)

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

A) RIGHT OF BURIALS: NOS 14271 – 14301

15. TRANSFERS OF RIGHTS OF BURIAL

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

THAT the following transfers be approved:-

- A) TRANSFER OF RIGHT OF BURIAL
BANGOR NEW CEMETERY PLOTS 351
AND 352 – ASSIGNOR MR ERIC
MCBRATNEY / ASSIGNEE MR DAVID
GRAY
- B) TRANSFER OF RIGHT OF BURIAL
BALLYVESTER CEMETERY SECTION H
GRAVE 179 – ASIGNOR MRS LINDA
STEWART / ASSIGNEE MRS CAROL
LYNN

16. REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION FROM U3A

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Chief Executive, dated 14 June 2022, detailing that a request to make a deputation had been received from Adam Harbinson of University of the Third Age (U3A), to inform the Council of the activities it promoted and was engaged in for the benefit of the 'third agers' in Ards and North Down.

RECOMMENDED that Council agrees to the deputation request from U3A and refers this to the Community and Wellbeing Committee.

Proposed by Councillor McKimm, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor McKimm praised the organisation highlighting that it was often jovially described as the youth club for older people. It was not just about learning but about participation and it was well known what impact that had on physical and mental health and looked forward to welcoming the organisation. Councillor Boyle felt that it would be beneficial to have the presentation.

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

16.1 GRANT OF ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE (FILE LR 100 / 90101)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment, dated 22 June 2022, detailing that applications had been received for the grant of an indoor and an outdoor entertainment licence for the:

The Georgian House, 14 The Square, Comber

Applicant: Mr James Mulholand, Elmwood Drive, Lisburn

1. Indoor Entertainment

Type of entertainment: Indoor dancing, singing and music or any other entertainment of a like kind.

Days and Hours: Monday to Sunday during the hours when intoxicating liquor may be sold or consumed on these premises under the Licensing Order (NI) 1996.

2. Outdoor Entertainment

To be provided in the outside courtyard and walled garden areas at various times in connection with organised events.

Type of entertainment: music

Days and Hours: Monday to Sunday 9am to 11pm

There have been no objections to this application and NIFRS, PSNI and Environmental Health are satisfied with the application and the premises.

RECOMMENDED that the Council grants the applications.

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

17. NOTICE OF MOTION STATUS REPORT

(Appendix V)

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

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

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

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

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

18.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cummings and Councillor Johnson

That this council notes the recently launched development strategy by Comber Rec FC and receipt of IFA funding for stadia improvements and brings back a business case for the proposed redesign of the parallel sports pitches and facilities at Park Way, Comber as outlined in the councils agreed capital investment schedule and a

report on how the Council can work in partnership with Comber Rec FC and other sporting partners in the realisation of the objectives contained within that strategy.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Community and Wellbeing Committee.

18.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor MacArthur, Councillor Brooks, Councillor T Smith and Councillor Kennedy

That this Council acknowledges the exceptional work which community and voluntary groups carry out, often staging events which were previously run by this Council.

Risk management and Event Management Plans should assist the planning and the safe running of these events. However, many voluntary groups find the process arduous and inflexible, especially when trying to organise events on Council owned land.

This Council therefore requests that a full review of this process takes place in consultation with community groups to ascertain their concerns, ensuring that Health and Safety expectations are realistic and meet the necessary requirements. Groups should be more actively supported as part of the process and that, if necessary, a wide range of supporting materials should be provided for a range of events, thereby ensuring that voluntary groups are more robustly assisted in their work rather than hindered by the current burdensome process.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor MacArthur, seconded by Councillor Brooks, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Corporate Services Committee.

18.3 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Greer and Councillor McKee

That this Council recognises and acknowledges the difficulties that some individuals experience with fertility problems, and will treat all staff fairly and equally, with dignity and respect. Furthermore, council officers will bring back a 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.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McRandal, seconded by Councillor McKee, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Corporate Services Committee.

18.4 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Girvan and Councillor Irwin

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.

Alderman Girvan requested, due to the urgency of the matter and extended timescale in hearing the motion at Committee due to the summer recess, if the Mayor would allow the motion to be heard. The Mayor agreed to the request.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan, seconded by Councillor Irwin, that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

Speaking to the motion, Alderman Girvan explained that on 19 May, the Ulster Bank had announced, without any consultation with businesses or the local community that it was closing nine Bank branches in Northern Ireland including those in Comber and Holywood.

The announcement had left both towns in the Borough without a bank to serve local businesses and residents. The announcement had shocked people to the core and had left many feeling angry, distressed and abandoned by a corporate bank which should be providing a valuable service to the local community.

Comber and Holywood were thriving and growing towns. Those towns were expanding – not contracting and there was almost full retail occupancy in both towns. There were very few vacant shops to let. Comber in particular was experiencing exponential growth of new housing developments with 1,500 houses planned within the next 5 years. Those were potential new customers for all the services that banks supplied: personal loans, mortgages, savings, ISAs etc.

The closure of the Ulster Bank in Comber would have a significant impact upon the local community. She had been contacted by many Comber retailers who were utterly dismayed at the Ulster Bank's decision to close down their Comber branch. Many of the town's traders such as restaurants, cafes, newsagents, pharmacies, florist, hardware and food shops still dealt in cash over the counter. Removing a local bank from the centre of the town would be an added burden on hard working shop owners who were just emerging from an extremely difficult trading period due to the pandemic.

Although the nearest Ulster Bank to Comber was Newtownards which was four miles, that would take at least an hour to drive to Newtownards, park, and deposit money safely. For those having to use public transport, it would take even longer. The same applied to Holywood where the nearest bank would be Connswater in east Belfast or the Clondeboye Shopping Centre in Bangor. Since Ulster Bank shut its branch in the centre of Bangor in 2017 and moved customers to Clondeboye, the queues were horrendous. She questioned what it was going to be like when the Holywood branch closed and Holywood customers joined the queue.

The bank played a central role in bringing local people into the town and she firmly believed that footfall would decrease as a result for the closures. Rather than walk into their local bank in Comber or Holywood, shop owners and residents would have

to travel to another town to perform banking business and would therefore spend their money in another town.

Alderman Girvan was also concerned that staff could be made redundant, particularly at a time when the cost of living was rising rapidly.

Comber and Holywood both had a large elderly population which did not use credit cards, online banking or have a smart phone and depended on their local bank. Who was going to advise them if there wasn't the facility to speak to a friendly customer service employee, especially when scams were on the rise. Older people still dealt in cash, wrote cheques and spoke to bank tellers or bank managers.

Alliance Councillors and MLAs in Strangford and in North Down had had two separate meetings with the Ulster Bank. Alderman Girvan had not been impressed with their attitude or their explanations. They had said that both branches were losing money yet it was the banks that had trained their customers to use online banking and therefore reduced the need to enter a bank to complete transactions.

NatWest, the parent company, made £4.1 billion pre-tax profit last year. Regardless of whether the banks were pushing people to conduct banking business online via computers or smart phones, this way of operating lost the personal touch and consultation that people needed when discussing complex banking arrangements. She thought it was unacceptable that banks which made billions every year, put profit before people.

She felt that the Council needed to fight to save banks and couldn't allow them to take decisions on cost saving criteria. There was too much at stake for the local community.

She hoped that the Council would support her Notice of Motion to write to the Ulster Bank to make it aware of the Council's total disappointment at the closures and invite its officers to a meeting with Councillors to discuss options that would allow both of those banks to remain open.

Concluding, she added that more services and facilities were needed in our towns in the future, not less.

Councillor Irwin added that she was grateful for the opportunity to second the motion following Alderman Girvan's extensive campaigning work, alongside Alliance Party colleagues, on the issue.

While it was undeniable that the move to digitising many services in our lives was an inescapable one, and often made things quicker and easier for many people, we also needed to ensure that services were still accessible for everyone in the community. Councillor Irwin spoke of her elderly relatives who, like many, relied on being able to attend a bank in person to use its services; they would not have had a hope of navigating online services for a variety of reasons. An ATM machine, no matter how convenient it was, was not an adequate replacement for on-site professional support for Ulster Bank users. Many in the community relied on being able to easily access a bank, and with the closure of the Ulster Bank leaving Holywood, with no other bank

in the town, elderly and vulnerable people could be left with no option but to travel to Bangor or Belfast to avail of the services. That was not sustainable.

The closure would also leave the businesses in Holywood with no bank in the town to assist with the running of their business – it would be a particular blow to the businesses that dealt in cash. Local Alliance representatives Stephen Farry MP, Andrew Muir MLA and Connie Egan MLA had met with the Financial Services Union, Bangor Chamber of Commerce and Holywood Chamber of Commerce in May, alongside workers to discuss the closures, express their universal condemnation and discuss the many issues that would cause for local businesses.

In this age of digitisation, there were many discussions ongoing about the state of town centres and plans for how they should be revived to attract both locals and tourists to high streets. Closing banks, which brought footfall into town centres, was undoubtedly a counter-productive step in that regard, and this was especially difficult coming as local businesses were attempting to recover from the affects of the Covid-19 pandemic and were now facing rising costs during the cost of living crisis.

The closures would also, of course, result in job losses for those staff working in the local branches. Everyone was already facing soaring energy and fuel costs, with people struggling to afford food and heating, and this was only destined to get worse as we headed towards the colder months. Closure of the branches in September and October, with staff facing compulsory redundancy, would leave many in an untenable position.

Concluding, Councillor Irwin thanked the proposer for her campaigning on behalf of businesses and residents in Comber and elsewhere to stop those closures and hoped colleagues on the Council would support the motion and present united opposition to the closures.

Members spoke in turn to support the Notice of Motion.

Alderman McIlveen felt it was unfortunate that other parties had not been given any indication that an application would be made to hear the Notice of Motion as standing orders prevented anyone from bringing an amendment without 24 hours notice. He suggested it was something that needed to be reviewed within the Standing Orders.

He said that a DUP delegation had met with Ulster Bank representatives following the announcement, particularly in relation to the Comber closure, and it was clear that the Ulster Bank had no interest in retaining the bank or even the ATM. People would need to use the ATM at the Tesco store despite the accessibility barriers of crossing roads. The closure was a concern for disabled constituents and those who were unable to use online or telephone banking. It was also concerning that the Post Office was losing the Working Pensions contract and customers were being advised to open a bank account.

During the meeting with Ulster Bank officials, the DUP delegation had raised concerns around the future of the jobs at the branch and the response had been that staff were being transferred while some were taking the option of early retirement

and that they welcomed the closures with open arms, claims which Alderman McIlveen doubted somewhat. Overall he was extremely disappointed by the reaction of Ulster Bank.

He was aware that all parties would be campaigning on the closure and would be supporting the motion while underlining all of the work that his own party and other parties had been doing in relation to it.

(The meeting went in to recess at 9pm and resumed at 9.10pm)

(Alderman McIlveen and Councillors Cooper and McKimm left the meeting – 9.10pm)

Councillor Cummings had also attended the Ulster Bank meeting and was disappointed by the bank officials' lack of empathy on the deep impact the closure would have on the rural community and elderly residents in particular. He had asked if the bank had engaged with the Council and was surprised that there had been no engagement and consideration for lack of internet access across rural communities. Comber and Holywood were representative of the five major towns in the Borough and were experiencing growth in terms of jobs and regeneration. This would undermine the Council's plans to push forward on those.

Councillor Kendall was supportive of the motion adding that she had been lobbying to keep the Holywood branch open. She had written to the Finance Minister and had been assured that he would continue to press the Treasury. There was a huge dependence on face-to-face banking.

Councillor Boyle felt banks were brutal organisations that lacked mercy. He spoke of the length of commute from areas highlighting that Portaferry was a 40 mile round trip for anyone wishing to use a bank. Overall it was a case of every party in the Council getting behind the motion and supporting it. He felt that mobile banking was not providing an appropriate level of service and did present accessible issues with steps up to the van. He could understand the problems and upheaval it would cause to the people of Comber and Holywood. He suggested that a delegation from the Council could attend a meeting to make the case and felt that there would only be one chance to do it.

Councillor T Smith described the decision by the Ulster Bank as disgraceful, pointing to the loss of the Ulster Bank and Northern Bank branches in Donaghadee. The closures of banks left huge holes in communities and it was not too long ago since the £50billion Government bail out of the banks and therefore he felt that the Government should be stepping in and putting a stop to the closures. The profits were excessive and he felt there was a moral responsibility for the bank to keep its branches open. He felt that the Council needed to reinforce its message of objection and do all it could to prevent the closures.

Councillor Edmund said there was no bank left anywhere in the Ards Peninsula and felt that the further closures were scandalous. He spoke of the importance of physical banking and the lack of trust people had with online services. Councillor Brooks added his support for the motion having lost both banks in the centre of

Donaghadee. He had a business for 25 years and had noted the move from cash transactions to card payments. He suspected there would be a time when there would be no banks and there would be appointment only services in offices that would be charged for. He believed that the closures in Comber and Holwood would affect footfall. Covid-19 had rapidly advanced the Government's ambition of having a cashless society. He recalled visiting the Ulster Bank at the time of its closure in Donaghadee and they had kept its mobile banking service and there was promise that the ATM would be retained but that was removed after a while. He was supporting the motion but feared though that both branches would be closed and from a business perspective believed a time was coming when it would be unprofitable for a bank to have a branch in a town centre.

Councillor P Smith was supportive of the motion and added that banking was a quasi-nationalised industry and said the Government owned 48.5% of Nat West, a parent company of the Ulster Bank which was very much a controlling share. That he felt was a factor for the Finance Minister to raise with the Treasury given that Nat West was closing 56 branches across the UK.

(Alderman McIlveen returned to the meeting – 9.40pm)

Councillor Thompson agreed with the previous comments and suggested that the Council make its opposition public in an attempt to shame the Ulster Bank in taking it seriously.

Summing up, Alderman Girvan appreciated the concerns raised by Alderman McIlveen that there had been no notice of her application for the motion to be heard on the night and asked the Chief Executive for clarification on the procedure for such requests. The Chief Executive advised that convention was that the proposer would make other party leaders aware of the motion and their request for it to be heard. While not a Standing Order, it was a convention, and the onus would fall to the proposer to communicate the request coming forward.

Alderman Girvan apologised and advised it was not her intention to hide the intended request from other Members. She welcomed the comments and contributions from Members and agreed there were some suggestions that should be actioned. She said a meeting was important rather than just a letter on its own to the bank and felt it was important to recognise the Government had a controlling share and act upon that with letters to the Finance Minister and Treasury. She felt that other Councils should be invited to join with the Council in opposition and the media could be involved. She thanked members for their support.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Girvan, seconded by Councillor Irwin, that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

(Councillor T Smith had left the meeting at this stage – 9.50pm)

18.5 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman McIlveen and Alderman Armstrong-Cotter

That officers bring back a report with a view to widening the Council's use of digital technology (in particular QR codes) to promote and provide information about statues, built heritage and monuments in the Council's ownership and care as well as points of interest throughout the borough.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Community and Wellbeing Committee.

18.6 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Kendall, Councillor McRandal, Councillor McClean and Councillor Johnson

This Council recognises the opportunity that a return to Council management of the Queen's Leisure Complex, Holywood presents to develop the potential for a revitalised local asset that benefits the whole community, - a space for health, arts, culture, recreation, events and learning.

In light of this opportunity, this Council resolves to facilitate engagement with relevant community stakeholders, the purpose of which will be to ascertain community need and desires in respect of the Queen's Leisure Complex asset. A report, to include a costed plan, should be presented to Council before the end of 2022.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Kendall, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Community and Wellbeing Committee.

Circulated for Information

(Appendix VI – IX)

- a) Census 2021 – first results (Correspondence from NISRA attached)
- b) NI Housing Council Minutes dated 12 May 2022 and June Bulletin (copies attached)

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Girvan, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the items which were Circulated for Information be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Brooks, that the public/press be excluded from the undernoted items of confidential business.

8.6. Community and Wellbeing Committee dated 15 June 2022 (continued)

Item 27 – Ward Park Update

*****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)

- 19. REQUEST FROM NI WATER - WORKS AT SPAFIELD CARPARK AND REQUEST FOR A TEMPORARY CARPARK AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE RUGBY CLUB**
(Appendix X – 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)

- 20. LAND AT DICKSON PARK, BALLYGOWAN (OS10829)**
(Appendix XIII – XVII)

*****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)

- 21. REQUEST FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF DONAGHADEE TO INSTALL A LOOK OUT COMPASS/DIRECTION POINT ON COUNCIL LAND**
(Appendix XVIII – XIX)

*****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)

- 22. FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH FOR GARY LIGHTBODY (CX173/3)**

*****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)

23. ARC21 RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT – UPDATE

*****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. UPDATE ON DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING SUSPENSION OF UNITE STRIKE 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 Adair, seconded by MacArthur, that the public/press be readmitted to the meeting.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 10.58pm.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Audit Committee was held virtually via Zoom on Monday 27 June 2022 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:-

In the Chair: Councillor Gilmour

Alderman: Armstrong-Cotter

Councillors: Greer
Irwin (7.30 pm)
McAlpine
McClean

Independent Member: Mr T McGonigal

In Attendance: ASM – C Hagan
Deloitte – C McDermott
NIAO - A Allen

Officers: Chief Executive (S Reid), Director of Finance and Performance (S Christie), Head of Finance (S Grieve) and Democratic Services Officer (H Loebnau)

1. APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Councillor Gilmour, sought apologies at this stage and those were noted from Councillor Thompson. Apologies were also noted for David Kinsella, Deloitte, and Members were informed that Camille McDermott would present the internal audit report in his absence.

NOTED.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including the internal and external auditors to the Committee from the Northern Ireland Audit Office, ASM and Deloitte.

NOTED.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman asked for any Declarations of Interest at this stage and none were made.

NOTED.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Audit Committee Minutes from March 2022 (Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the minutes be noted.

(b) Follow Up Register (Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Finance and Performance detailing that in line with best practice, the purpose of the report was to make the Audit Committee aware of the status of outstanding recommendations or any outstanding actions from the previous Audit Committee meetings.

There was one item from the previous committee which had been completed.

RECOMMENDED that the Committee notes the report.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Greer, seconded by Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, that the recommendation be adopted.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT

(a) Internal Audit Progress Report 2022/23 (Appendix III)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Audit Committee Progress Report, Ards and North Down Borough Council.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

C McDermott spoke as the internal auditor explaining that progress had been set out against the new annual internal audit plan, starting off the 22/23 year. It would be noticed that both the audits for Q1 were underway and progressing well. For Q2 terms of reference had been agreed or planning meetings scheduled for this week. She added that Q3/Q4 finance dates would be agreed for finance and waste management and planning would commence later for Q3/Q4 and a date had been set for the Q3 audit. She was happy to take questions from Members on progress.

Mr McGonigal referred to Q4 and there was no date set to look at cyber security. In response it was explained that would be discussed at the planning meeting when the cyber team and the business technology team met in September after the summer holidays. She gave assurance that it would be completed before the end of the financial year.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the recommendation be adopted.

6. PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

(a) 2021/22 Performance Improvement Progress Report to 31 March 2022 (Appendix IV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Finance and Performance detailing that the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 Part 12 put in place a new framework to support continuous improvement in the delivery of Council services. The Council was required each year to determine its priorities for improvement which were aligned to the Community Plan and Corporate Objectives and to publish those in the format of an Improvement Plan.

In the 2020/21 year the requirement to publish a Performance Improvement Plan was set aside and for the 2021/22 year the publication date was extended to September.





The Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) for 2021/22, identified 5 improvement objectives with a corresponding 33 measures including 7 Statutory Indicators and 6 self-imposed indicators, all were included in the Council's Service Plans and were monitored and reported on quarterly through each Service's respective Standing Committee.





It should be noted that this report reflected performance of the PIP only and was not necessarily representative of the overall performance of the organisation.

The following table gave an assessment of the status across all measures in the PIP for Quarter 4.

Performance Assessment Key

The key outlined below provided definitions for the three Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status levels which had been chosen to measure progress.

RAG Status	Definition
	Target/standard, actions and measures are of concern and are mostly falling short of plan
	Target/standard, actions and measures are mostly on track, but some are falling short of plan
	Target/standard, actions and measures are on track
	Rescheduled/no progress owing to impact of Covid

Corporate Plan PEOPLE priority	Improvement Objective	No of measures			
					
PROSPERITY	▶ We will grow the economy and create jobs		-	6	2
ENVIRONMENT	▶ We will improve the cleanliness of the streets in our borough by targeting littering and dog fouling incidents	1		2	-
	▶ We will improve recycling rates from Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)		-	1	1

LIFE	▶ We will support our businesses and residents to protect and improve their health and wellbeing	1	-	-	2
EXCELLENCE	▶ We will use technology to drive change		-	2	2
STATUTORY INDICATORS	▶ Municipal Waste ▶ Economic Development ▶ Planning		5	2	-
SELF-IMPOSED INDICATORS	▶ Resident Satisfaction	-	-	-	1
	▶ Prompt Payment of Invoices	-	-	-	3
	▶ Average number of working days lost per employee	-	-	-	1
	▶ % staff attendance	-	-	1	-
	OVERALL	2	5	14	12

Detailed information on progress against each of the measures could be found in and appendix to the report. Information on the Council's performance against the PIP 2021/2022 could also be found on the Council's [website](#) following ratification of the report.

RECOMMENDED that the report is noted.

Councillor Greer made an observation in relation to the high tonnage that the Council was sending to landfill and she was aware that the Director of Environment was discussing that with party groups along with potential solutions to that problem. She asked when further information would be brought back to the Environment Committee. The Chief Executive reported that consultations would take place over the coming weeks with a view to bringing back a report to the Environment Committee in September.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the recommendation be adopted.

7. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

(a) Annual Statements of Assurance

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from Director of Organisational Development and Administration detailing that in accordance with the Council's Risk Management Strategy, Heads of Service were required to provide Statements of Assurance. Assurance Statements comprised 4 main sections to be completed by each Head of Service following consultation with each of their Service Units. Period of this report, 1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022. One statement for remained outstanding.

Findings

General – Identification of Risk, Monitoring and Control measures

No key issues had been declared as not having appropriate internal controls in place. All Services had confirmed that any risks identified had appropriate internal controls and any further actions taken, or to be taken, to adequately mitigate or resolve the risk had been identified.

Brexit and COVID 19 Pandemic Impacts

The impacts of both those issues had been previously reported. Actual and potential impacts, primarily financial and demands affecting staff, and/or service delivery, were reported across the Statements of Assurance.

Section 1 – Strategic and Operational Risk Management

Services reported appropriate controls were currently in place and had identified satisfactory actions to review, monitor, control, mitigate and resolve issues, where appropriate.

The Waste and Cleansing Service had reported that a significant financial liability risk remained if the bidding process for the Residual Waste Treatment project was collapsed by the client (arc21). Planning permission was recently refused by the DFI Minister and legal advice was currently being sought on whether to challenge the validity of the decision. All of that had significant implications for the future of arc21, in terms of delivering infrastructure for member councils.

The Leisure Service had reported that the current insourcing exercise being undertaken for North Down Leisure was greatly adding to the workload of the management team. Additional leisure and human resourcing staff had been recruited along with the retention of specialist consultancy services to assist in that process.

Section 2 – Internal Control

Generally, there were no key issues arising to cause significant concern or requiring immediate action.

Progress on Audit findings was reported to the Committee separately, although they were reflected in the Assurance Statements. Services had recorded progress and plans to complete outstanding audit actions. Outstanding audit recommendations for four services were noted here.

The Communications and Marketing Service unit had two outstanding Priority 2 findings and one outstanding Priority 3 finding related to the Social Media Audit conducted in 2021, and those were being addressed.

Strategic Transformation and Performance had three Priority 1 findings, two Priority 2 findings and four Priority 3 findings raised by the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Audit and the Business Technology Audit, all those findings were being progressed through an action plan.

Community and Culture Service had two priority 2 findings related to improving the documentation for PCSP grant claims with regards to when a non-standard approach to grant claims was appropriate and to ensure that management approval was documented for variations in grant claim timetables. In addition, the Service also had 8 priority 3 findings outstanding to be implemented.

Finance Service had recorded one outstanding Priority 1 Audit finding relating to the provision of an Asset Management Policy, in addition there were seven Priority 2 findings and two Priority 3 findings which had not been able to be progressed due to

the Covid-19 response and a lack of staff resources to influence policy review and development. In addition to those there were four Priority 2 recommendations and seven Priority 3 findings, progress and plans for completion of those were recorded.

Finance Service had also noted the absence of new Finance policies as a factor contributing to Internal Control risk. A business case had been submitted for additional staffing to progress those policies.

Section 3 – Governance

Administration had reported that complaints monitoring had revealed that information was not always being appropriately captured and that, despite formal procedures being in place, officers did not meet the expected standards in terms of response times and responsibilities. An action plan was in place to address that with the increased roll-out of the Te-Care software.

Assets and Property Services had reported that due to the recent high volatility in fuel prices a "deemed contract" was set up with suppliers in a collective action by councils to secure supply and attempt to achieve a price certainty as far as was practical. Significant overspend was expected, officers would continue to report to Council on that and explore options. In addition, due to unexpected market conditions the sale of electricity from the wind turbine in Balloo Wood Bangor was extended beyond the tender period, the tender would be revised.

The Service had also reported that due to the pandemic several vehicles were hired from a local business to support waste collections and other activities, those were hired without the value of the contract being known at the time, but those vehicles had continued to require use for much longer than planned due to the health and safety implications of Covid-19 on operations.

The Leisure Service had reported that the insourcing of the North Down Leisure Services may introduce legal or financial issues which had not been foreseen. To mitigate that the insourcing team had been made up of officers from across multiple sections of the Council for the greatest breadth of experience available to work on that. The loss of income claims submitted by the current operator were being independently reviewed by an external contractor to make an assessment as to the validity of those claims.

In addition, the Leisure Service had reported that the current difficulties recruiting staff were leading to staffing shortfalls, should that continue there was the possibility of reduction in facility opening hours and associated financial impact.

Environmental Health Protection and Development had again reported potentially significant legal and financial issues due to the demand on the Service both in relation to Covid-19 and the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol. In addition, the Service was reporting a difficulty recruiting and retaining environmental health staff, both for front facing and support staff which combined with the other pressures may hinder the Council's ability to deliver on statutory requirements.

The Finance Service had reported that the issues of the interaction of overtime and holiday pay were still unresolved as well as the implications of the McCloud and

Sargent court cases, whilst being accounted for in financial statements for year end March 2022 had not been fully accounted for in employer pension contribution rates.

In addition, the Service had reported that an attempted fraud was discovered on 13 April 2022, that was reported to the Northern Ireland Audit Office and the Department for Communities, no loss was incurred by the Council.

The Parks and Cemeteries Service had reported that there would be an increase in fuel costs associated with the removal of the ability to use red diesel in road-going work vehicles (eg tractors). The ongoing complaints regarding remaining depths in graves was having a negative impact on cemeteries operations. Generally, a potential risk in terms of administration support had been identified following recent restructuring and in Cemeteries a need for greater administration support had been noted. A general review of the structure at SUM level had been identified as a future requirement to prepare for a sustainable and resilient delivery model going forward.

Human Resources and Organisational Development had reported several Priority 2 and 3 findings resulting from a number of audits. A timetable had been put in place to ensure appropriate action was taken within reasonable timescales.

Several direct award contracts were reported by services, all of those had been reported to the Council and Council procedures followed.

Community and Culture had reported that there was a deviation from the Council's grants policy relating to a grant for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations which was agreed by the Council. In addition, the Service had also noted that grant funding relating to Covid-19 costs were claimed in error from SEUPB, and that the Service was working with them to resolve that.

Section 4 – Miscellaneous

Many services had stated continuing difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff at all levels as a key factor contributing to potential risk across a range of Council activities.

The Planning Service had reported that the Service Level Agreement (revision) with Shared Environmental Service required signing for the provision of services in relation to Sustainability Appraisal for the Local Development Plan.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

The Head of Finance outlined the report explaining that this was the Council's bi-annual report and in line with its risk management strategy which had previously been agreed. It was the second one of the year and was a summary of issues being reported from each service section. There were no major issues being shown, however, there were a number of things to be highlighted.

There were some issues in respect of demands on Council staff, financial and workload pressures and difficulties recruiting suitable staff in a number of sections.

The Head of Finance presented the remainder of the report to Members in detail.

Mr McGonigal had a question for the Head of Finance about the utilities contract that was going to add significant pressures on the Council's resources and if there were any contingencies to meet those demands or if there were any opportunities for additional funding from the Department for Communities. The officer replied that that would be seen later when the meeting considered the financial statements in which it would be seen that the Council had set aside funds to help mitigate that cost pressure.

In addition, the Association of Local Government Finance Officers (ALGFO) were working on collating a piece of work with a view to putting in a financial pressure bid to the Department for Communities in respect of the economy-wide pressures. That piece of work was ongoing.

Councillor Gilmour referred to leisure services and the costs of insourcing, both legal and financial issues which would be unforeseen. Members were informed that insourcing was going through due process and there was already a project board set up and was headed by the Director of Community and Wellbeing. There were a number of workstreams around leisure and business technology, finance contracts, human resources, assets and property that made up a reasonably lengthy 'to do' list. The reporting was a flag that there may be issues that would come up as the Council went through that due diligence process and in some respects those were issues with an unknown outcome.

Alderman Armstrong-Cotter asked if the Council had given consideration to how to address the difficulty it faced in relation to recruitment of suitable candidates to work within the organisation. She was aware that in the planning section there was pressure to progress planning applications, and she wondered how recruitment could be improved. The Chief Executive agreed that recruitment and retention of staff was currently a key issue for the Council and the matter had been raised at the most recent Corporate Committee which had been held earlier in the month. The problem was an issue across employment in Northern Ireland generally and a cross Council working group had been set up to consider how the Council could attract more and better applicants, outlining the attractive benefits such as annual leave and the pension scheme. The Council was vulnerable for example to a general shortage of HGV drivers in the waste and cleansing section and for those with leisure specific qualifications such as sports coaches.

In response the Member was encouraged to hear of the Council's plan and suggested that it should also think about promoting the Council in different ways to appeal to younger people stating the benefits of flexibility and time out to travel for example while also meeting the Council's needs.

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the recommendation be adopted.

8. TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW (Appendix V)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Finance and Performance stating that in line with good practice the Audit Committee should review its terms of

reference annually and make recommendations to the Council to ensure that it keeps up to date with developments within legislation, guidance and regional and national issues.

The last review was carried out in June 2021.

The review had been carried out by the Head of Finance and there was only one change recommended under Overall Purpose and Objectives add:

- Approve the appointment of an Internal Auditor and receive regular reports therefrom.

RECOMMENDED that the Committee notes the report.

The Head of Finance spoke to Members stating that each year they were made aware that the terms of reference were reviewed to ensure they were fit for purpose and up to date. This year it had been decided to add in the procedure for the appointment of an internal auditor and while the Council was carrying out that process already this would formalise it.

Councillor Greer suggested a further amendment to the terms of reference to state that while the appointment to the Audit Committee was for a four-year term there were changes made to the make-up of the committee each year due to Members taking on positions of responsibility. The Director of Finance and Performance was in agreement with that since there was much shuffling of positions following the Annual Meeting and indicated that that would be incorporated into the Terms if Members were in agreement.

Members were content that Councillor Greer's suggestion be included and left it to officers to agree the wording of that addition.

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Greer, seconded by Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, that the recommendation be adopted.

9. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that there were no items of Any Other Notified Business.

NOTED.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Greer, seconded by Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, that the public/press be excluded during the discussion of the undernoted items of confidential business.

10. SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS UPDATE

*****IN COMMITTEE*****

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

11. DRAFT GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2021/22
(Appendix VI)

IN COMMITTEE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

12. DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2021/22
(Appendix VII)

IN COMMITTEE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

13. FRAUD, WHISTLEBLOWING AND DATA-PROTECTION MATTERS

IN COMMITTEE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

14. CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION: NI AUDIT OFFICE GUIDES

IN COMMITTEE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

15. MEETING WITH NI AUDIT OFFICE AND INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE IN THE ABSENCE OF MANAGEMENT

*****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)

RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the public/press be readmitted to the meeting.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 8.17 pm.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Planning Committee was held virtually on Tuesday, 5 July 2022 at 7.00 pm via Zoom.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Alderman Gibson

Aldermen: Keery
McIlveen

Councillors:	Adair	McKee
	Brooks	McRandal
	Cathcart	Moore
	McAlpine	Thompson
	McClellan	Walker

Officers: Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning (S McCullough), Head of Planning (A McCullough) Principal Professional and Technical Officer (G Kerr) and Democratic Services Officers (H Loebnau and S McCrea)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 19 MAY 2022 AND 7 JUNE 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Minutes of the Meetings.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

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

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4.1 LA06/2019/1007/F - Retention of a fence and gate surrounding an existing pumping station (Retrospective) Seacourt WWPS

(Appendix I & II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report and Addendum outlining the planning application.

DEA: Bangor

Committee Interest: It was a Local development application attracting six or more separate individual objections which were contrary to the officer's recommendation.

Proposal: Retention of a fence and gate surrounding an existing pumping station (Retrospective)

Site Location: Seacourt WWPS, Lands 20m North of 1 Seacourt Lane, Bangor

Recommendation: Approval

The application was deferred from 5 April 2022 Planning Committee Meeting to seek legal advice. Queries related to liability if planning permission was refused, if health and safety was a material consideration and, appropriate planning grounds if minded to refuse due to the adverse effects fence and gate could cause to visual amenity, quality and character of the area, particularly due to its sensitive location 51 objections originally received with a further 6 objections received since amended drawings were submitted (5 of the 6 previously objecting to original proposal).

RECOMMENDED that the Committee considers the report and makes a proposal on the application accordingly.

The Head of Planning began by suggesting that Members would be familiar with the application since it had been before the committee a number of times. This was to review the application at Seacourt Waste Water Treatment Works Pumping Station since the development application had attracted six or more separate individual objections which were contrary to the officers' recommendation.

Members understood that at April's Planning Committee the decision was deferred to allow officers to obtain legal advice on three explicit points as follows:

- i. Would the Council be held liable in terms of health and safety if the application were refused;
- ii. Was health and safety a material planning consideration; and
- iii. What planning grounds would be appropriate to base any proposed refusal on.

The responses to those were set out in the Addendum before Members and she drew attention specifically to paragraph 5 in terms of a refusal taking account of the above which she read out.

Members, when taking account of the SPPS, should consider whether the adverse visual impact caused by the proposal caused demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance namely the designations contained in the draft BMAP i.e. the Belfast Metropolitan Area Coastal Area and Wilson's Point LLPA and it was to those material considerations that Members could afford to give weight given the harm Members felt was caused in terms of visual and amenity of the area.

She referred to the revised recommendation within the Addendum which requested Members to consider the detail outlined in it, including the answers to those specific points on which they received the legal advice and to make a proposal on the application accordingly.

Proposed by Councillor McClean, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be refused.

Councillor McClean believed that the committee was now in a position to take a proposal to refuse under the headings that were listed in the legal advice specifically COU4 under draft BMAP and ENV3 of draft BMAP. Under COU4 none of the conditions had been met and neither had they been under ENV3 of draft BMAP relating to the three areas of specific importance namely the Wilson's Point Local Landscape Policy Area and the Belfast Metropolitan Area Coastal Area.

The Member went on to suggest that the legal advice was welcome and when it came to planning policy it was not expected always to be in accordance with common sense but in this instance it clearly was. The planning advice was separated in to three areas and one was on liability and it seemed there was a comfort that there was no liability on the Council for this and the Planning Committee was simply considering the application under planning reasons only. He pointed out that the legal advice had not strayed into the interesting question of whether or not a potential claim could cause the Committee to vote in a way that it might not otherwise have voted under the planning guidance.

The fence was intended to 'fix' a problem that had existed for a long time prior to its erection and even that, he considered, went too far because the degree of danger was also contested. While it was fine that the Committee pay heed to health and safety undue weight should not be attached to it. The Councillor understood the position that NI Water had taken in respect of liability but thought health and safety was being taken far too seriously within the application. He pointed out that there were other areas on the coastal path that were more or less dangerous and it would not be acceptable to have the coastal path completely shuttered off from the sea in order to keep people safe and avoid potential liability.

He considered that it was the role of the Planning Service to be concerned about the visual amenity of areas in which people lived and played.

Councillor Cathcart stated that he was happy to support that recommendation to refuse planning permission. It had been acknowledged in the planning officer's report that there was a visual impact, and everyone would agree on that the question was how much weight should be given to that. He reminded Members that when NI Water had been invited to the Committee to discuss the health and safety concerns it was unable to provide real evidence. The pumping station had been there for some considerable time, and it was odd that NI Water had gone ahead without seeking advice on whether or not the application needed planning permission. The organisation had also told the Council that it took a zero-risk policy when it came to health and safety and showed no balance of risk against visual impact. The visual impact was currently extensive not just from the path itself but from as far away as

Eisenhower Pier and onwards. The sheer number of objections showed the public importance of the site and the harm that the fence would do in relation to it. Since it was already built it was obvious to people the impact that it was having. He encouraged Members to back this proposal and reject the application.

The Head of Planning asked for clarification on the planning policy the Members were proposing to reject the application and Councillor McClean stated that it was contrary to Policy COU4 and ENV3 of draft BMAP in that the proposal was not of such national or regional importance to outweigh any potential detriment and it could not be demonstrated that the proposal improved the quality of the coastal landscape. It also caused detrimental harm to Wilson's Point LLPA and was recognised to adversely affect the enjoyment of the North Down Coastal Path in respect of environmental quality, integrity and character.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McClean, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be refused.

4.2 LA06/2019/0371/F - Replacement of wind turbine approved under LA06/2020/0384/F with a Vestas V52 model with 50m hub height and 26m blade span (Lisbane)
(Appendix III)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report outlining the planning application.

DEA: Comber

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

Proposal: Replacement of wind turbine approved under LA06/2020/0384/F with a Vestas V52 model with 50m hub height and 26m blade span

Site Location: Land approximately 150m SE of 32a Lisbarnet Road, Lisbane

Recommendation: Approval

The original permission for the turbine was granted on 11 March 2013 under X/2011/0617/F with a hub height of 37m. A subsequent application was submitted under LA06/2020/0384/F (Retention of wind turbine with a 30m hub and 26m rotor diameter with an output of 250KW (changed from 37m hub and 27m rotor diameter – previously approved under application X/2011/0617/F) approved 15/09/21. Constructed on site.

The proposal at the time of writing sought to replace the existing turbine on the site granted 15 September 2021. There was a presumption in favour of renewable energy development provided the proposal did not cause demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.

SPPS stated wider environmental, economic and social benefits of all renewable energy proposals where material considerations that would be given appropriate weight in determining whether planning permission was to be granted. There were 19 objections from 10 separate addresses and one letter of support.

All material issues raised were addressed in the case officer's report.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the recommendation and agree planning permission.

The Principal Professional and Technical Officer explained that this was for the replacement of a wind turbine approved under LA06/2020/0384/F with a Vestas V52 model with 50m hub height and 26m blade span at lands approximately 150m SE of 32a Lisbarnet Road, Lisbane, within Comber DEA.

The application was before Members as there were six or more objections associated with the proposal with there being 19 objections from 10 addresses as detailed on the covering page of the case officer report which superseded the reference to 18 objections on page 17 of the Case Officer's Report.

Members should note that the planning history associated with the site was relevant as there was already a turbine on the site granted planning permission on 15 September 2021 under planning reference LA06/2020/0384/F - with a 30m hub and 26m rotor diameter.

All consultees were content with the proposal and the recommendation was to grant planning permission.

Members should note that there was a representative present at the meeting in support of the proposal should any matters require additional clarification.

The site was located within the countryside with a surrounding landscape of rolling drumlins. The site was located approximately 366m from the roadside in an agricultural field adjacent to the outbuildings/dwellings associated with 32 Lisbarnet Road. The land rose in a south-easterly direction, with the turbine located on the side of a drumlin peak.

To provide further context of the site and area the officer took Members through slides showing photographs of the area.

The main critical viewpoints of the proposal would be from the Manor Road, Lisbarnet Road and Killinchy Road. When travelling north along the Killinchy Road, the existing turbine was visible from a distance of 700m. Continuing north towards Lisbane, the blades remained visible with the tubular tower largely screened by the mature trees which were planted between the site and the Killinchy Road. Those trees would also help to restrict views of the replacement turbine. Given the separation distance and intervening vegetation, it was considered that the landscape had the capacity to absorb the replacement turbine when viewed from vantage points along the Killinchy Road.

There were glimpses of the existing turbine from the Ballybunden Road at a distance however views were limited due to the distance of the turbine from the road, the topography of the land and intervening vegetation.

From the Ballybunden Road there were limited views of the existing turbine due to the intervening drumlins and vegetation. A larger turbine would become more visible however that vantage point was a considerable distance from the site. From this vantage point the electricity poles would remain a feature of the landscape occupying drumlin tops. The SPG recognised that proximity to existing man-made structures could be beneficial in the siting of turbines as the landscape often had a greater ability to accommodate such development.

When travelling along the Lisbarnet Road from Kilmood, medium to longer range views of the existing turbine were visible from around 44 Lisbarnet Road. A larger turbine would be visible from further afield however the views would be at a distance which would reduce the overall visual impact.

From the junction of the Lisbarnet Road and Manor Road driving towards Lisbane, the existing turbine, whilst visible, did not appear out of scale with the existing landform due to the distance from the road and its position off the peak of the drumlin. It was considered that the replacement turbine, whilst taller, would be a similar feature to the existing turbine and would not be overly obtrusive or dominant in the landscape.

On leaving Lisbane, on the Lisbarnet Road, the blades of the existing turbine were firstly visible for a short distance behind the trees to the rear of Lisbane Surgery. Due to the intervening roadside vegetation, buildings and drumlin topography it was considered that views of the replacement turbine from Lisbane would be limited to the upper portion of turbine hub and blade tips.

HED was consulted on the proposal due to the presence of some listed buildings in the wider area and it offered no objections with regards to the potential impact, one of which was being the Church of Ireland Church located on Kilmood Church Road. Taken from various vantage points although the increase in scale would be apparent, the turbine was located a considerable distance from the surrounding road network with the closest main vantage point on the Lisbarnet Road approximately 380m distance from the site. Undoubtedly the replacement turbine would be visually evident in the landscape, however the Best Practice Guide (BPG) to PPS18 acknowledged that it would normally be unrealistic to conceal a wind turbine. Rather it was an assessment of the capacity of the landscape to absorb the development with appropriate weight applied to the wider benefits of the renewable energy development.

Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy (PPS 18)

PPS 18 was relevant and was supported by a Best Practice Guide (BPG) and by Supplementary Planning Guidance entitled "The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment" (SPG).

The aim of PPS 18, set out in Paragraph 3.1, was to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment in order to achieve Northern Ireland's (NI) renewable energy targets of 40% of electricity being provided by renewable sources by 2020.

The overall thrust of the document was supportive of renewable energy developments with the headnote of RE1 making it clear that development that generated energy from renewable resources would be permitted provided the proposal would not result in an unacceptable adverse impact on a number of specific criteria. Therefore, there was a presumption in favour of renewable energy development provided the proposal did not cause demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.

The supporting information submitted with the application highlighted that the proposal to amend the turbine dimensions and model was to facilitate a more efficient generation of renewable energy on the site. The supporting document further outlined that the proposed V52 model would enable the efficient harnessing of wind, and a greater windswept area would generate a higher yield of renewable energy in the interests of wider socio-economic and environmental benefits.

The applicant asserted that the wider environmental, economic and social benefits associated with the replacement turbine included a 300% increase in energy production, the provision of power to an additional 203 homes and the potential reduction in CO2 emissions.

Regarding the wind turbine it comprised of a tubular tower with three rotor blades, finished white/grey in colour and had an overall height of 76m to blade tip. The existing utility boxes located on the south-western boundary of the field were not to be amended as part of this planning proposal.

The proposed turbine had a hub height 50m which was 20m higher than the hub height of the existing turbine. The blades would double in length from 26m to 52m rotor diameter. The overall height to tip would be 76m.

The site was not located in a designated landscape and would not have an unacceptable adverse impact on historic or built heritage sites. The replacement turbine was a larger structure to the existing turbine on the site; however, the new turbine would be similar in appearance to the established physical feature in that landscape. Whilst the scale of the turbine was large, it was not so excessive as to be comparable to modern wind farm developments in either tower height, blade length or overall height. The undulating nature of the surrounding landscape, meandering nature of the road network and intervening vegetation would reduce the impact of the replacement turbine on visual amenity and landscape character.

Objections to the proposal included the visual impact of the proposed turbine, noise of the existing turbine, shadow flicker lasting up to 20 minutes at a time (to be fitted with a sensor to stop turbine), impact on wildlife (bat survey submitted), *Risk to health and wellbeing and reference to a report in the Telegraph by Ian Johnston, no specific clinical evidence had been submitted by any third party to support an objection based on potential health impacts.* The report referred to was not planning policy and therefore little weight could be attached to it.

The Environmental Health Department considered an Acoustic Report prepared by Grainger Acoustics. The noise predictions indicated that the predicted noise levels at any receptor did not exceed either day or night-time limits when assessed as per

the ETSU-R- 97 guidance. There were no other turbines in close proximity to the site which would result in a cumulative impact in relation to sound. Noise conditions would be attached to any potential approval of the application to protect the noise amenity of nearby noise sensitive receptors. Environmental Health offered no objection in regards the potential noise impact on the neighbouring dwellings.

Shadow flicker

The greatest impacts were predicted to be at two dwellings which were identified as financially involved in the proposal. The report stated that results had been assessed as a '**worst-case**' scenario. No dwelling lay within the excess of 30 minutes shadow flicker which was considered to be in excess in guidance of what was considered to be unacceptable. A mechanism was to be fitted to the turbine which would cease its functioning when shadow flicker occurred which would mitigate effects on any affected receptors. That would be a condition on any approval given.

In summary, it was acknowledged that wind turbines were a prominent feature and could not be hidden as it were within a landscape. Given the presence of an existing turbine on site, taking into account the relevant policy and no objections from any consultees the recommendation was to grant planning permission.

Proposed by Alderman Keery, seconded by Councillor McKee, that the officer's recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be granted.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Keery, seconded by Councillor McKee, that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be granted.

4.3 LA06/2022/0021/F - Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating (Frances St, Ards) (Appendix IV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: -

DEA: Newtownards

Committee Interest An application made by the Council

Proposal: Change of use of car parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating)

Site Location: To the front of 22 Frances Street, Newtownards

Recommendation: Approval

The parklet is 11m long and 2m wide. DFI Roads provided no objection in terms of road and pedestrian safety. One objection has been received. Matters raised relate to the loss of car parking and impact on amenity. All material issues considered in COR Condition recommended to ensure parklet is removed and land restored to its former condition within three years.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves.

The Principal Professional and Technical Officer presented slides to Members, explaining that the following three items were regarding the use parking spaces as parklets for a temporary period of three years which would consist of planters and an area of public seating.

Item 4.3's application was before the Planning Committee as it was a Council application. Members should note that a reference had been made to High Street within the COR at page two. The recommendation was to grant planning permission. One letter of objection had been received. The main areas of concern were in relation to parking and potential anti-social behaviour. Matters that were raised had been addressed in the case officer's report.

The site was to occupy a location on Frances Street in the town centre and prime retail core within a commercial area with residential in proximity. No objections had been received from Environmental Health.

Of one slide presented, the proposed footprint of the parklet was shown with an 11x2 metre area that was approximate to two car parking spaces. The scale would not detract from adjacent buildings and would not be a dominant feature of the street. Overall, it was not considered the proposal would detract from the surrounding character of the area, in particular the Town Hall which was a Listed Building.

The impact on road safety and parking had been considered in the case officer's report. The proposal would result in the loss of two existing car parking spaces, however, given the temporary nature of the development and proximity of the site to alternative parking provision (consisting of both on-street and carpark) on balance it was considered that the loss of two parking spaces would not be of such significance as to warrant refusal. DFI Roads had been consulted and did not consider the proposal to prejudice the safety of road users and pedestrians (subject to several conditions.) The parklet was proposed for a temporary period and a condition could be added to ensure it removed and land restored to its former condition within three years.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McClean, seconded by Councillor McKee that the recommendation be adopted and planning permission be granted.

4.4 LA06/2022/0022/F - Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating (Regent St, Ards)
(Appendix V)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: -

DEA: Newtownards

Committee Interest An application made by the Council

Proposal: Change of use of car parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating)

Site Location: 5-7 Regent Street, Newtownards

Recommendation: Approval

The parklet was 11m long and 2m wide. DFI Roads provided no objection in terms of road and pedestrian safety. No objections were received from members of the public. Condition recommended to ensure parklet was removed and land restored to its former condition within three years.

The Principal Professional and Technical Officer presented slides to Members, explaining that this was an application for change of use of land to a parklet for a temporary period of three years which would consist of planters and an area for public seating. The site was due to be located at 5-7 Regent Street, Newtownards and was before the Planning Committee as it was a Council application. There had been no objections to the proposal and the recommendation had been to approve planning permission. Members were asked to note that there was a reference to High Street within the COR at page two which should have read Regent Street. The parking spaces were located on Regent Street which was lined on both sides by mainly independent shops, some offices and on-street carparking. The site was adjacent to the public footpath and outside a café and a small office building. It was an exclusively commercial area with no residential properties nearby.

The proposed parklet was 11x2 metres and located within the town centre and prime retail core. Environmental Health raised no objections. The impact on road safety and parking had been fully considered in the case officer's report. The proposal would result in the loss of approximately three existing parking spaces and, given the temporary nature of the development and proximity to alternative parking provisions (both on-street and in carparks) on balance, it was considered that the loss of parking spaces was not of such significance as to warrant refusal of the application. DFI Roads had been consulted and did not consider the proposal to prejudice safety of road users and pedestrians (subject to a number of conditions.)

The parklet was proposed for a temporary period and a condition could be added to ensure its removal and land restored to its former condition within three years. Having considered all material planning matters, it was recommended that the application should be approved.

Proposed by Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the recommendation be adopted and planning permission be approved

Alderman McIlveen advised that the parklets had been part of the vision of the Newtownards Chamber of Commerce to try and improve the town. The concept itself was born through Covid-19 safety measures and it had been disappointing that it had taken so long for such proposals to make their way through the system, however, it should be noted that such was not the fault of the Planning Team, but instead an issue of how the Department for Infrastructure approached such matters. Such delays would appear to provide a complete lack of support to the restaurant and hospitality trade who, at some stages throughout the pandemic, were unable to sell their wares without provision of outdoor areas. However, he was pleased to see some movement had finally occurred and believed it could provide much needed assistance in the event of any dangerous Coronavirus spikes in the future.

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

**4.5 LA06/2021/1367/F - Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating (High St, Ards)
(Appendix VI)**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: -

DEA: Newtownards

Committee Interest An application made by the Council

Proposal: Change of use of car parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating)

Site Location: To front of 44a-46 High Street, Newtownards

Recommendation: Approval

The parklet was 11m long and 2m wide. DFI Roads provided no objection in terms of road and pedestrian safety. No objections were received from members of the public. Condition recommended to ensure parklet was removed and land restored to its former condition within three years.

In presenting slides to Members, the Principal Professional and Technical Officer outlined the change of land use to a parklet for a temporary period of three years; one that would consist of planters and an area of public seating being located to the front of 44a-46 High Street, Newtownards. The application was before the Planning Committee as it was a Council application. No objections had been received in relation to the proposal and the recommendation was to grant planning permission. At the time of writing, the site consisted of a couple of on-street carparking spaces in the town centre and Primary Retail Core of Newtownards. The parking spaces were located on the High Street which was lined on both sides by mainly independent commercial premises and on-street parking. The site was adjacent to the public footpath and outside a café and estate agents. The area was also exclusively commercial with no residential properties nearby.

As with the previous outlined parklets, the proposal was to use a footprint of 11x2m which would approximate to the area of three car parking spaces. Environmental Health had been consulted and no objections were raised.

The parklet was proposed for a temporary period and a condition could be added to ensure it was removed and land restored to its former condition within three years. Having considered all material planning matters, it was recommended that the application was approved.

Proposed by Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the recommendation be adopted, and that planning permission be approved.

Alderman McIlveen referred to his comments on the previous application being just as relevant to this parklet.

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

5. UPDATE ON PLANNING APPEALS

(Appendix VII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Head of Planning detailing that the following appeal was dismissed on 24 May 2022.

Appeal reference:	2021/A0040
Application Reference:	LA06/2015/0490/F
Appeal by:	Mr David Bryce
Subject of Appeal:	Installation of a 150kw wind turbine on a tubular tower with a hub height of 24m and blades with a rotor diameter of 24m and associated site works and equipment.
Location:	Lands 151m North of 24 Lisbane Road, Comber

The Council refused this application on the 13 April 2021 for the following reasons:

- The proposal would, if permitted, be contrary to the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (6.224) and Policy RE1 of PPS 18: Renewable Energy in that it had not been demonstrated that the development would not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity and landscape character through the scale, size and siting of the turbine.
- The proposal would, if permitted, be contrary to Policy NH6 of Planning Policy Statement 2 in that its siting and scale failed to be sympathetic to the special character of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in general, and of the particular locality, and would not respect or conserve features of importance to the character, appearance or heritage of the landscape.

The main issues raised by this appeal related to the impact of the proposal on tourism, residential amenity, visual amenity, and landscape character, including the special landscape character of the Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Commissioner concluded that the turbine would appear as an unduly prominent and discordant element within the surrounding landscape and would have an unacceptable adverse impact on visual amenity and the landscape character of that part of the AONB.

It was accepted that Strangford Lough was a feature of intrinsic interest to tourists. However, the evidence presented did not persuade the Commissioner that the proposed turbine would have an impact so great as to significantly compromise the tourism value of an asset the size of Strangford Lough. Objections on tourism

grounds were not sustained.

The wider environmental, economic, and social benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects were acknowledged, but in this case the appropriate weight they attracted was outweighed by the unacceptable adverse impact the proposal would have on visual amenity, landscape character and the AONB and would fail to comply with criterion (b) of Policy RE1 of PPS 18 and criterion (a) of Policy NH 6 of PPS 2.

Both the Council's reasons for refusal and the related upheld objections of third parties were sustained.

The decision was attached to this report.

New Appeals Lodged

1. No new appeals have been lodged since the date of the previous 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 reminded Members that one appeal had been dismissed since the last report for a wind turbine and explained the difference between that and Item 4.1 being that the proposed site was to be located one kilometre inland from Strangford lough and fell within an area of outstanding beauty. The Commissioner had sustained the Council's reasoning for refusal.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor McClean, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that the recommendation be adopted and report noted.

6. QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT (Appendix)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Head of Planning detailing that Members would be aware that the Council was required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil that requirement Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlined the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan Towards 2024 in operation)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually (for publication 30 September 2021)
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2021)

The Council's Service Plans outlined how each respective Service would contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP. The report for Quarter 4 2021-22 was attached.

Key points to note: See table below for cumulative year.

Year	Quarter	Majors			Locals				Enforcement		
		Applications received	Decided	Average Processing Time (wks)	Applications received	Decided	Average Processing Time (wks)	% cases processed <= 15 wks	Cases Opened	Cases Concluded	Target 70% in 39 wks
2021/22	1	1	3	158.8	314	289	19.1	39.9%	105	118	33.1%
	2	1	1	110.8	263	218	20.2	28.9%	87	84	42.9%
	3	2	1	98.4	251	279	24.4	31.7%	84	82	42.7%
	4	2	1	30.2	250	228	25.9	24.8%	98	131	45.8%
TOTAL		6	6	104.6	1078	1014	22.4	31.9%	374	415	41.0%

A number of factors had affected performance over the past year, as follows:

- Unavailability of the Planning Portal for a number of weeks pre-Christmas 2021 and into the new year.
- Dealing with number of older cases in parallel with new cases.
- Ineffectiveness and resourcing of statutory consultees.
- NIW infrastructure issues.
- Continued and repeated objections to proposals.
- Ensuring robustness of EIA screening.
- Social distancing measures affecting numbers of staff in office; and
- Delegated list issuing on a Tuesday (reverting to Mondays from July).

Whilst cognisant of the above, and of ongoing performance improvement measures being considered in the light of the NI Audit Report and Public Accounts Committee Report, further staff training was taking place to ensure that consultations on applications were necessary, review of whether the Good Practice Guide with its Application Checklists was effective in trying to encourage appropriate frontloading, and continued review of proportionality of case officer reports. Additionally, in the light of recent revised government guidance, officers would be physically present in the office on a more regular basis which would assist the administrative team in relation to relevant processing associated with cases. Ongoing recruitment was underway to address vacancies and associated knock-on impacts from resignations and other absences.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes this report.

The Head of Planning expressed disappointment at the figures within the report, citing how some targets had been affected by Covid-19 and reallocation of staff for planning applications. A list of factors had been produced which identified several serious issues such as staff absences in the administration team as well as professional and technical areas. Resignations, long term sickness, interchange opportunities and backfilling had all fed into difficulties felt by the Department. External influences also affected productivities such as the Department for Infrastructure, DAERA and NIEA whilst NI Water had been increasing recommendations for refusal regarding combined sewers and all the while, pressures increased on the Planning Officers.

Working from home had not been completely successful as social distancing measures had meant teams were separated with individuals only able to attend the office for some tasks and in limited numbers; an operating style that had led to delays.

There were also concerns with the timing, implementation and rollout of new IT systems for the Planning Portal. Some staff would be upskilled as trainers to deliver training amongst staff however no alpha or beta testing models had been supplied to allow staff to test software. In addition, concerns existed with the backlog of work that would accumulate due to staff inability to process work during the first number of weeks of the system being implemented.

In response to Councillor Cathcart's question of managing to keep planning applications going through within the target of eight weeks, the Head of Planning explained that the North Down area received many objections and that the job itself was quite repetitive which required swapping staff (a year's tenure). When a new staff member took charge of the job, they would have to clear a back log of existing cases then manage the new allocations. There were not enough staff to have a dedicated worker and with a mix of part-time (three days per week), it had been difficult to manage throughput. Councillor Cathcart believed it would be necessary to add those issues to a general planning committee review. The Head of Planning agreed, especially whilst considering recommendations of the level of delegation in planning and overturns in the report. An example was given of items being placed on the delegated list in the week prior to a planning meeting which would have to await the following month's meeting; something that would add five weeks onto the waiting time with potentials of them being deferred. It may also be wise to look at the scheme of delegations. With consideration given to the number of objections received from the public and how they were managed, a workshop with Members may too be beneficial. Councillor Cathcart wished the Council to do everything within its power, citing that effective planning could help with speeding up the local economy.

Councillor Moore asked if there was a benchmark that could be used against other councils in the difficulties they experienced and in addition, queried if some of the operational issues might be down to lack of talent, difficulties with partnerships and strategies that could be used to assist. The Head of Planning cautioned against using the quarterly report's published statistics as a benchmark against other councils as it did not state how many members of staff were assigned departmentally, monies available to those departments or the level and difficulty of applications. For example, Mid & East Antrim received many straightforward, low level planning applications that could be dealt with expediently. Some of the ANDBC council officers had been trying to address issues through monthly meetings with statutory consultees. In regard to the latter question over talent acquisition, the Head of Planning suggested trying alternative avenues such as UU or Queens University. From previous experience at the DOE, she recalled summer students being used to alleviate pressures; something the council did not do. Some staff members had also been lost to private planning consultancy agencies, seemingly due to the incentivisation offered, and it may be that the Council needed to investigate its own incentives to ensure the appropriate, qualified staff were sourced.

At this stage, it was noted that Councillor Cathcart would propose to adopt the report, seconded by Alderman McIlveen.

Alderman McIlveen was aware of the difficulties associated with the Department for Infrastructure's departments and recalled the Head of Planning speaking of EIA who he explained still did not have appropriate guidance in place. He believed if the Department took care to enforce powers under legislation, it would assist as so too would their monitoring for compliance. Regarding the Planning Portal, Alderman McIlveen felt it bizarre that no contingency planning or soft launch was available given it had been planned for years and wondered whether Mid Ulster's choice to independently work upon its own technology would have been the better option. He asked what the rationale behind the sudden precipice from one technology to another had been. The Head of Planning highlighted that a three-week system outage had occurred when the current system had been put in place at April 2015 with a significant backlog. It was a known issue and one that was hoped could be alleviated somewhat in being part of the second wave of Councils to go live with the programme whereby this Council could learn from the issues experienced by those that went live with the first wave. The company in charge of setting it up was met with several issues with the original, minimal viable product, made that much more difficult by an underestimate by the Department of Infrastructure as to how much data would require transfer by Councils. Additionally, OSNI raised issues at a late stage over the royalties due from maps which had led the Department for Infrastructure to begin work on emergency legislation for map fees. Other issues included DAERA's systems having difficulties communicating with the new system despite having been aware of the issue from 2015 and having nothing in place. The current system used by the Council was quite outdated and failed daily. Its provider gave a final extension to the contract to the end of December 2022 at significant cost.

If the Council did not have systems up and running, a contingency may be the requirement to return to pen and paper. Pressures had continued to grow on the Planning Department with a number of processes now running parallel instead of dependently with training and user acceptance placing further strains of the Administration Officers. Regarding Alderman McIlveen's comment of Mid Ulster's independent approach, the Head of Planning advised that the system it had put in place was not up to the same standards expected of the new Portal, with no intuitive validation checklists and submission of revised plans being required on paper.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that the recommendation be agreed, and the report noted.

7. METROPOLITAN WORKING GROUP FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT (LDP)
(Appendix VIII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Head of Planning detailing that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) guidance suggested that collaboration between councils in plan-making was important to the soundness of each LDP, which was

assessed through the independent examination procedure. The soundness assessment methodology included a 'consistency test' that explored whether the LDP had given due regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to any adjoining council's district.

Metropolitan Spatial Working Group (MASWG)

A working group across councils in the Metropolitan area to support the ongoing LDP process (Belfast City Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, and Ards and North Down Borough Council) was established in 2017 by Belfast City Council (BCC). It was envisaged to provide a mechanism to include the sharing of information and seek, as far as possible, to agree a common approach to LDP policies, objectives and proposals in an effort to minimise the potential for conflicts between individual LDPs. The Working Group included Members and officers and met quarterly.

The Council nominated Aldermen Gibson and McDowell to represent ANDBC on that working group. With the resignation of Alderman McDowell from the Planning Committee it was necessary to nominate another Member to attend.

The existing Terms of Reference for the Group were appended for the information of Members.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the content of the report including attached terms of reference and nominates a replacement member to serve on the working group.

The Head of Planning informed Members of Alderman McDowell's and Alderman Gibson's cooperation and assistance. The working group was set up to share information for future planning. Since Alderman McDowell was no longer part of the LDP group, a replacement member was to be sought.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor McAlpine, seconded by Councillor Moore that the recommendation be adopted and that Councillor McRandal be the replacement member on the LDP team.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor McClean, that the public/press be excluded during the discussion of the undernoted item of confidential business at 20:11.

8. NEW REGIONAL PLANNING IT SYSTEM (Appendix IX)

*****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)

RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Councillor McAlpine, that the public/press be re-admitted to the meeting at 20:31.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 20.32.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Pre-Determination Hearing was held by the Planning Committee of the Ards and North Down Borough Council on Wednesday, 20 July 2022 at 6.00 pm via Zoom.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Alderman Gibson

Aldermen: Keery
McIlveen

Councillors:	Adair	McRandal
	Cathcart	Moore
	McAlpine	Thompson
	McKee	Walker
	McRandal	

Officers: Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning (S McCullough), Head of Planning (A McCullough), Principal Professional and Technical Officer (G Kerr), Senior Professional and Technical Officer (A Todd) and Democratic Services Officers (H Loebnau and R King)

CHAIR'S REMARKS

At the outset, the Chair explained that further to the Department for Infrastructure notifying the Council that it did not intend to call-in the above planning application for determination, the Council was required to hold a Pre-Determination Hearing, the purpose of which was to give the applicant, those people who had submitted representations, and any other interested party, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the Planning Committee, prior to the Planning Committee holding a Special Meeting to debate and determine the application.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Brooks.

2. PLANNING APPLICATION

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Addendum and appendices

2.1 LA06/2020/0007/F – LANDS AT AND TO THE REAR OF 18-52 MAIN STREET (REEDS RAIN TO TK MAXX), 2-34 KING STREET, 5-17 SOUTHWELL ROAD, 5-41 QUEEN'S PARADE,

MARINE GARDENS CAR PARK, THE ESPLANADE GARDENS AND THE AREA AROUND MCKEE CLOCK BANGOR

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report detailing the proposal for demolition of existing buildings at 5-12 and 35-41 Queen's Parade, 22-30 Main Street (formerly B and M Bargains), 34-36 Main Street (Oxfam and Hospice shops), 6-34 King Street and 5-17 Southwell Road; minor extension and elevational changes to 40-42 Main Street (Caffe Nero); creation of new means of escape and installation of rooflights to 20 Main Street (Halifax); creation of new bin storage and basement access together with minor facade works to 48 Main Street (TK Maxx); erection of a mixed use development comprising culture and leisure facilities (class D), a 66 bedroom hotel, retail units, food and beverage outlets, offices (class B1- (a)), 137 residential units comprising 113 apartments in 3 blocks and 12 duplex apartments along King Street, creation of a new vehicular access onto Southwell Road to serve undercroft car park comprising 217 spaces together with 14 courtyard spaces and 24 on street, creation of new vehicular access onto King Street to serve residential parking, minor modifications to the Main Street and King Street junction and creation of a two-way street along Southwell Road from the junction with Primrose Street, creation of a new service vehicle access onto Main Street, creation of new public squares and courtyards including new pedestrian access points; and the redevelopment of Marine Gardens Car Park including partial demolition of sea-wall to create a public realm space comprising gardens and lawns, play areas, events spaces, covered shelters, 4 kiosks and 2 pavilions (housing food and beverage operators), and water feature together with other ancillary development.

(Angela Wiggam (Planning agent for the applicant) and Nigel Murray (architect from Todd Architects) were admitted to the meeting from the public gallery)

The Chair welcomed Ms Wiggam and Mr Murray and both speakers confirmed their identity, that they wished to participate in the hearing procedure and that they understood the process.

The Chair reminded the speakers to focus their comments on the material planning considerations that related to the planning application and that no new information would be accepted at the hearing.

He reminded Members of the Planning Committee that Clarification questions from Planning Committee Members was through the Chairperson and that those should be points of fact, policy or other technical aspects and only refer to issues raised by the speakers.

The Chair invited the Head of Planning to introduce the application, give a brief description of the proposed development and the application site, the planning policies against which the application requires to be assessed and any other material considerations relevant to the application.

The Head of Planning of outlined the purpose of the Pre-Determination Hearing, explaining that the Planning Committee voted unanimously at its meeting of 26 January 2021 to approve the subject planning application. As the Council proposed

to approve the application contrary to an objection from a statutory consultee, in this case DFI Rivers, the application was notified to the Department for Infrastructure.

The then DfI Minister, Nichola Mallon, wrote to Council on 9 March 2022, some 13 months later, to advise that she did not consider that the application raised issues of such importance that their impact was considered to extend to a regional or sub-regional level and, that the circumstances of the case were not exceptional such as to render the use of the Department's call-in powers. As such the Council was now required to hold this pre-determination hearing to afford the applicant, any person having made a representation and any other interested person the opportunity of being heard by the Committee, prior to a formal determination being made.

The Council advertised the detail of this hearing and the following Special Committee meeting in the press and on-line, and the only persons registering to speak were those on behalf of the applicant – the planning agent from Turley – Ms Angela Wiggam, and the architect for the Scheme, from Todd Architects, Mr Nigel Todd.

The objective of the hearing was to focus on the material planning considerations and to update the Planning Committee in respect of any other material considerations which had arisen in the intervening period between the original intention to approve and today.

The officer shared images displaying detailed elements of the proposed development including the red line of the application site against an OSNI map and orthophotography.

Referring to the Case Officer Report, which was presented before Planning Committee in January 2021, the officer explained that it had been updated with a detailed addendum, setting out the situation since the Committee last determined the application.

Members were shown further slides detailing the following:

- proposed layout,
- underground car park,
- preliminary landscaping details for the Marine Gardens side of the proposal
- elevation to Queens Parade and Main Street
- elevation to King Street and Southwell Road
- Market Place with proposed Hotel, Offices and Trinity Way Access alongside the Section through Market Place showing proposed Apartments, Cinema and King Street Terrace

Continuing, the officer explained that since the previous meeting a Private Streets Determination drawing was submitted for the approval of DFI Roads which set out an additional area of footway to be adopted along Queen's Parade, Southwell Road beside the junction with Queen's Parade and along King Street to the front of the proposed residential development; and additional areas of road and footpath at the two proposed access roads from King Street into the development to be adopted. The various phasing plans for the development were amended to incorporate the required road works and improvements for each phase. DFI Roads was consulted

upon receipt of amended plans and had advised it had no objections to the proposal subject to conditions.

Road works required within each phase of the development alongside other further minor amendments to the phasing plans (submitted on 06 June 2022) for clarification purposes were detailed within the Addendum.

The officer went on to explain that further to discussion between the Authority (Council and DfC) and the developer, changes were requested to the Phasing Plans to ensure that the public realm works proposed in Phase 1 extended to the toilet block at Esplanade Gardens; and elevation changes to the Halifax building on Main Street which were originally proposed to be carried out within Phase 3 were included within Phase 1.

Further slides showed the phasing of the proposed scheme as detailed below:

Phase 1 - Delivery of first part of Marine Gardens, demolition of 34 & 36 Main Street, minor alterations to TK Maxx and Café Nero and Halifax

Phase 2 - Delivery of remaining public realm at Marine Gardens and commencement of development on under-croft car park and residential blocks 1 and 2 with all remaining buildings demolished with exception of King Street

Phase 3 - Commencement of work on hotel, kids' zone, offices, Market Square and associated steps and completion of works to Trinity Square, installation of raised table

Phase 4 - Demolition of King Street terrace and completion of 24 new residential units and cinema building and completion of all hard landscaped surfaces

The officer added that amendments were negotiated to the apartment development fronting Queen's Parade and turning the corner into The Market Place, in respect of a reducing the height of the block which appeared overly dominant in the skyline. In terms of representations received in relation to those amendments since the original Planning Committee meeting, it was not considered that those received raised any new material considerations that were not already considered as part of the original assessment.

As detailed within the original Case Officer Report, a legal agreement was considered necessary as a valuable mechanism for securing planning matters arising from this development proposal.

In this specific case, such an agreement meant that this proposal could be permitted, subject to Council approval, whilst mitigating potentially negative impacts on land use, the environment and infrastructure. The legal agreement as drafted would secure provision of additional off-site car parking spaces associated with part of the proposed office accommodation within the scheme, and to secure Travel Card provision for the occupants of the 24 one-bed apartments within the scheme for which no parking had been provided. The Section 76 Agreement would be finalised and executed prior to any planning approval being issued.

As detailed in the Case Officer Report the proposal had been assessed against the following prevailing planning policy framework as shown on the current slide and other supplementary planning guidance.

The process of 'weighing up' the relevant factors, was often described as the 'planning balance'. The planning authority must exercise its judgement and consider many (sometimes) conflicting issues to decide whether planning permission should be granted. This balance was carried out pursuant to Section 6(4) of the 2011 Act which was detailed at the start of the Case Officer Report requiring that a decision under the Act must be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. This would mean examining the development plan and taking material considerations which applied to the proposal into account. These matters must be properly considered otherwise the decision of whether or not to grant permission would have excluded a consideration.

This proposal, including all other information submitted since the previous meeting of 26 January 2021, had been considered weighing, inter alia, the matters as shown on an earlier slide.

For the reasons set out in within the Case Officer Report and taking account of any relevant additional matters, the Planning Department considered that:

- The proposal met the policy provisions of the extant Local Development Plan, draft BMAP and the Bangor Town Centre Plan
- This proposal represented an important opportunity to influence change in Bangor Town Centre and promote regeneration of the site to act as a catalyst to further sustainable development in the town, in line with the regional objectives identified within the Regional Development Strategy.
- Furthermore, no material considerations had been put forward that outweighed the social and economic benefits that were presented within this development proposal; and concerns raised by Rivers Agency in relation to the reservoir inundation area, were considered to be outweighed by the positive benefits of this redevelopment scheme which would represent significant regeneration benefits to an area long neglected and awaiting positive intervention.

The Chair invited any questions from Members to the Head of Planning.

Councillor Cathcart had believed that Pre-Determination Hearings were normally only required where there were complex legal issues involved. This application though had been previously approved by the Planning Committee and he therefore took the view that the procedure was nonsense and had been forced upon the Council by the Department. He pointed out that the speakers would get the same opportunity to make representation at the Planning Committee meeting where the application would be considered immediately after this meeting.

Moving to his question, Councillor Cathcart referred to the phasing additions and recognised there was no need for re-advertisement but noted there was a re-advertisement of the scheme and asked if that was in relation to the minor amendments involving the roads.

The Head of Planning advised that the Planning Service had determined that there was no need to re-advertise in relation to the phasing amendments as they related to the programming of the works rather than the specifics of the scheme itself. The elements that had been re-advertised had related to the further details regarding the roads and there was further representation submitted to that, referred to in the addendum.

Councillor Cathcart welcomed what he felt would be helpful conditions added and asked what level of changes to an application would normally require it to be returned to the Committee for approval.

The Head of Planning advised that the Planning Service would not normally return an application following minor amendments to the wording, it would only be in the case of a new material consideration that could affect the reasoning determined by the Committee. Had planning approval been granted previously then there would have been a number of 'discharge conditions' that would have required the planning agent to obtain further approval from the Planning Service for each of those additional elements. The delay however had been useful for the Planning Service to work through some of those new details that had not been presented previously. Approval at this stage therefore would save time and speed up the progress of the scheme.

Councillor Cathcart welcomed that but queried if the additional conditions were due to the size of the scheme and the various different phases almost being like separate applications. The Head of Planning said that this was due to the phasing and the fact that the scheme was tied into a legal agreement and a development agreement and it was important that the conditions tied the developer down to completing one specific phase before moving on to the next one. The Council did not want the development broken up and sold off with pieces being unable to be completed or not started. The process undertaken by the Planning Service also included assessment against the six legal tests and had been reviewed by its legal team in order to have a robust as decision as possible without any ambiguity within the plans/conditions.

The Chair invited Ms Wiggam and Mr Murray, the applicant's planning agent and architect, to speak, advising that they had 10 minutes.

Ms Wiggam said she, along with her colleague, Mr Murray, had no comments to offer only to thank the Head of Planning and her team for their work in processing the application.

The Chair invited any questions from members of the committee to the speakers.

Councillor Cathcart asked, if the application was approved tonight, when the developer intended to commence with the construction. Ms Wiggam advised that there were significant pre-commencement conditions that needed to be met but once a decision notice was issued it was the intention to press on with the body of work required to meet those conditions and it was anticipated that the development would commence in the later part of 2023.

The Chair invited the speakers to respond to any final areas and both confirmed that they had nothing to add.

The Chair asked the Planning Committee if its requirements for information had been met and this was confirmed. He invited the Head of Planning to detail the appraisal of and present the recommendation on the application which would be considered when the Planning Committee met to determine the application following this meeting.

The Head of Planning advised that the application was being recommended for approval and the application would be heard at a Special Meeting of the Planning Committee.

(Mr Murray and Ms Wiggam were returned to the public gallery)

In closing, the Chair thanked all those who had attended, particularly the speakers. He confirmed this formally closed the Pre-Determination Hearing. Members were reminded that the Planning Committee formally met following this Pre-Determination Hearing to determine the application.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 6.30 pm.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Special Meeting of the Planning Committee of the Ards and North Down Borough Council was held virtually on Wednesday, 20 July 2022 at 7.00 pm via Zoom.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Alderman Gibson

Aldermen: Keery
McIlveen

Councillors:	Cathcart	Moore
	McAlpine	P Smith
	McKee	Thompson
	McRandal	Walker

Officers: Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning (S McCullough), Head of Planning (A McCullough) Principal Professional and Technical Officers (G Kerr and A Todd) and Democratic Services Officers (H Loebnau and R King)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Brooks.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. PLANNING APPLICATION

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Addendum and appendices

3.1 LA06/2020/0007/F – LANDS AT AND TO THE REAR OF 18-52 MAIN STREET (REEDS RAIN TO TK MAXX), 2-34 KING STREET, 5-17 SOUTHWELL ROAD, 5-41 QUEEN'S PARADE, MARINE GARDENS CAR PARK, THE ESPLANADE GARDENS AND THE AREA AROUND MCKEE CLOCK BANGOR

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report detailing the proposal for demolition of existing buildings at 5-12 and 35-41 Queen's Parade, 22-30 Main Street (formerly B and M Bargains), 34-36 Main Street (Oxfam and Hospice shops), 6-34 King Street and 5-17 Southwell Road; minor extension and elevational changes to 40-42 Main Street (Caffe Nero); creation of new means of escape and installation of rooflights to 20 Main Street (Halifax); creation of new bin storage and basement access together

with minor facade works to 48 Main Street (TK Maxx); erection of a mixed use development comprising culture and leisure facilities (class D), a 66 bedroom hotel, retail units, food and beverage outlets, offices (class B1- (a)), 137 residential units comprising 113 apartments in 3 blocks and 12 duplex apartments along King Street, creation of a new vehicular access onto Southwell Road to serve undercroft car park comprising 217 spaces together with 14 courtyard spaces and 24 on street, creation of new vehicular access onto King Street to serve residential parking, minor modifications to the Main Street and King Street junction and creation of a two-way street along Southwell Road from the junction with Primrose Street, creation of a new service vehicle access onto Main Street, creation of new public squares and courtyards including new pedestrian access points; and the redevelopment of Marine Gardens Car Park including partial demolition of sea-wall to create a public realm space comprising gardens and lawns, play areas, events spaces, covered shelters, 4 kiosks and 2 pavilions (housing food and beverage operators), and water feature together with other ancillary development.

The Head of Planning outlined the application which she was pleased to be re-presenting to the Committee which sought full planning permission for the redevelopment of the Queen's Parade site in Bangor. The detailed description of the development was outlined within the presentation to Committee and within the report but essentially involved the demolition of some existing buildings on the site to make way for a new mixed-use development complimented by the creation of a new public realm area at Marine Gardens.

The application was before the Committee this evening as it constituted a major development application and the officer's recommendation was that full planning permission should be granted. Members had a copy of the case officer's report which set out the detailed planning considerations, and as such the report was taken as read.

The site was located at Queen's Parade in Bangor city centre and was split into two sections. Firstly, the landside of Queen's Parade to the south, which occupied the portion of land bound by Main Street, King Street and Southwell Road and secondly the seaside of Queen's Parade to the north, occupying the existing Marine Gardens Car Park.

The site was affected by a number of designations proposed in the Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan including the Primary Retail Core, a Primary Retail Frontage along Main Street, the proposed Bangor Central Area of Townscape Character, existing open space adjacent to the marina and the Bangor Urban Waterfront designation. There were also a number of listed buildings within the vicinity of the site. While the NDAAP had passed its notional end date, it remained the statutory local development plan along with the Bangor Town Centre Plan, with draft BMAP remaining a material consideration. The majority of the main aims and objectives set out in both the extant plans in respect of the town/city centre were carried through to Draft BMAP and there was no material conflict between the policies and objectives of the plans. The Plans had the common aim of directing commercial activity to the town centre, encouraging further development of entertainment and tourist facilities along the seafront, ensuring that existing assets were preserved and improving the general quality of the urban environment.

A photograph was shown from Queen's Parade viewed from the area around McKee clock and the second was further along Queen's Parade showing the corner of Project 24 and the existing buildings beyond. The presentation showed Project 24 which occupied a central position on Queen's Parade and then The Vennel which was the existing right of way running from Queen's Parade through to King Street at the rear of the site. Another slide showed a couple of views of the existing Marine Gardens car park and a further slide showed the view of the site from the entrance at King Street. Other photographs showed the existing frontage of the site on Main Street. Further photographs were shown of the existing site frontages onto King Street and Southwell Road which were the more residential areas.

The Head of Planning stated that the majority of Members would be familiar with the history of the site given the various plans put forward over the years. In 1999 North Down Borough Council received planning permission for a mixed-use development on part of the site. Following that, the Council issued a development brief in 2002 which led to a preferred developer securing planning permission in 2005 for a retail led scheme of 37,000sqm. However, the permission was never implemented. More recently as shown within the presentation, planning permission was granted for a similar mixed-use development to that currently proposed for the then Department of Social Development in 2015. The proposal comprised around 33,000sqm of floorspace along with the redevelopment of the Marine Gardens car park as a new public realm area. The current proposal aligned with the general principles established by the previous permission and now brought forward a developer led proposal representing a £50M investment project resulting in much anticipated regeneration for the town centre.

A further slide showed the proposed layout for the current application. Prior to submission, pre-application discussions were held with the Planning Department involving input from a wide range of statutory and non-statutory bodies. Extensive pre-application community consultation was also carried out by the developer in accordance with Section 27 of the Planning Act involving two public events held in June and August 2019. The final proposal submitted was informed by the views expressed through this consultation process.

The Head of Planning then turned to the details of the proposal itself, indicating that the mixed-use approach was considered the best response to the requirements of both the site and the town centre as a whole. While policies in Draft BMAP advocated more of a retail-led approach, the SPPS acknowledged the ever-changing role of town and city centres across Northern Ireland and represented a major shift in retail policy supporting both retail and other uses within town centres such as offices, leisure, community and cultural uses. It was believed that the proposed mixed-use development would contribute to a vibrant city centre not just by day, but also at night, and would attract a wide variety of visitors including tourists, residents and employees which in turn was likely to act as an impetus for additional retail and other services within the immediate area.

The development would have excellent permeability throughout incorporating pedestrian links from King Street and Main Street through the proposed squares down to Queen's Parade and across to the new public realm area at Marine Gardens. Some existing buildings on King Street, Southwell Road, Queen's Parade

and Main Street would be demolished to facilitate comprehensive redevelopment. As set out in the case officer report, it was considered that the majority of those buildings made no material contribution to the overall appearance of the proposed ATC and the principle of demolition was also established through the previous planning permission.

The residential character of King Street and Southwell Road would be maintained by siting the residential elements of the scheme along those roads. Apartments would also front Queen's Parade and the proposed Market Place Square in an L shaped block with a central private residential courtyard to the rear. Retail and food and beverage uses were to be located at ground floor level to ensure active frontages onto the public aspects of the development.

On the opposite side of Market Place was the proposed office block, which would also have a frontage to Main Street. The 'kidszone' and the hotel would front on to Queen's Parade and would have a smaller public courtyard called Trinity Square to the rear. Centrally located within the development at the back of Market Place Square was a proposed cinema building.

Parking for the development would be provided predominantly within an under-croft car park which would provide 217 spaces as shown on the plan. It should be noted that was not 'underground', per se, rather it would use the existing ground level as demonstrated in the section drawings. In addition to that, 24 spaces would be provided at King Street and 14 spaces within the residential courtyard providing a total of 255 spaces for the development as a whole. While that represented a shortfall in parking provision when assessed against the parking standards set out in BMAP, policy TRAN1 of the Plan permitted reductions in the stated standards where evidence of alternative transport arrangements was demonstrated or other material considerations justified an exception to the policy. In this case, the developer had proposed a number of mitigating measures, including the provision of travel cards for residents, a corporate commuter initiative plan also for the office employees and an off-site car park to provide additional spaces for the offices to be provided prior to the operation of phase 2 of the office development.

All of those measures would be secured through a Section 76 Legal Agreement, the details of which would be finalised and executed prior to the granting of planning permission. As detailed within the Addendum to the Case Officer Report, a legal agreement played a meaningful role in the planning process as a valuable mechanism for securing planning matters arising from a development proposal, and may mean that development could be permitted whilst potentially negative impacts on land use, the environment and infrastructure could be reduced, eliminated or mitigated.

The Head of Planning added that the developer's consultants were present at the meeting and she understood would be available to answer any specific questions that Members might have with regard to parking and the proposed mitigation measures. DFI Roads was also content with the proposal from a road safety and traffic progression perspective. She also referred Members to the Addendum, specifically paragraph 39 whereby prior to presenting the application to Members tonight, a review was undertaken of all other planning applications within the city

centre that may have been approved whilst relying on remaining public capacity which may have had the potential to impact on the previously identified requirement generated by the proposal. No such approvals had been granted in that regard.

Another slide showed the proposals for the new public realm area at Marine Gardens. In response to the resulting loss of existing car parking provision here, surveys of existing car parking provision within the city centre were undertaken by Atkins. Those surveys had demonstrated that there was sufficient spare capacity available within the city centre to accommodate those spaces to be lost as a result of the development.

The removal of the existing car park and replacement with an extensive public realm area was probably one of the most important aspects of the scheme reconnecting the city to the sea and opening up views and access to the waterfront area once again, something that was forefront in public opinions expressed during the consultation period. The proposals would see significant environmental improvements to the general quality and appearance of this currently extensive hardstanding car park, being replaced by quality hard and soft landscaping. Other features would include a central illuminated water feature, a natural play area, all weather shelters, seating throughout and small kiosks and two pavilion buildings which it was envisaged would house ancillary retail or food and beverage uses to further draw people into the area. The space had also been purposely designed to ensure flexibility for accommodating different types of events and uses all year round. The proposed works would be undertaken by the developer and then managed and maintained by the Council in the long term.

Turning to the proposed built development, the design process for a site of this nature, involved shaping how all elements of the built and natural environment related to each other through the construction of new buildings, creation of public spaces and environmental improvements. The SPPS advised that design was not limited to the appearance of a building or place, but should encompass how buildings and places would function in use and over the lifetime of a development. It also stated that planning authorities should not attempt to impose a particular architectural taste or style.

It should be noted that as a result of the year long process, the Planning Department and the architects had worked diligently together to make improvements to the initial submission to ensure the creation of a successful place to live, work and visit and one that would bring communities together and attract business investment. Planning officers were satisfied that through the design of the integral elements, the proposal would further sustainable development, encourage healthier living and promote accessibility and inclusivity, as endorsed by the SPPS.

Looking first at the Queen's Parade elevation that incorporated the hotel building to the left and the apartment block to the right and then at the back of Market Place was the proposed cinema building. The frontage to Queen's Parade would be 5 storeys, however the top floor of both buildings would be set back to reduce the visual impact from the street. The height was considered to be appropriate at this key position within the town centre and the overall scale of the buildings would sit comfortably within the context of the new public realm area immediately opposite.

The new office building on Main Street would replace the existing buildings which were not particularly attractive and would enhance the appearance of this part of the street. While the building had a fourth storey which protruded above the height of the existing buildings, that would also be set back significantly to reduce any dominant impact on the street.

Another slide showed the proposed King Street and Southwell Road elevations which would both accommodate residential units. The new terrace on King Street had been carefully designed to respect the existing terraced built form and on Southwell Road the building had been designed with bay features and pitched roofs to the front both of which were predominant features found on buildings within the area. Materials for the buildings throughout the development would comprise a mix of brick, self-coloured render, reconstituted stone cladding and fibre cement and metal rainscreen cladding.

Sections through the proposed Market Place Square were shown which demonstrated the difference in levels across the site. On the first image steps up from Queen's Parade to Market Place could be seen with the under-croft car park below and the second image showed the cinema building and new residential units on King Street sitting at a higher level.

Further slides showed CGIs submitted by the agent. Those were helpful for a scheme of this size to allow planners to better assess the impact of the development within its context and setting. The first view was taken from the far end of Pickie Fun Park and it could be seen that from this longer distance view the height of the buildings sat well in its context and did not appear overly dominant. It also very clearly showed that the spires of the listed churches were still very visible – that was something that HED had raised as an initial concern and which was expanded upon within the report. It was also considered that the light-coloured materials with the use of darker coloured materials on the upper floors helped to break up the scale of the buildings and assisted with blending them into their setting reflecting the light-coloured render and slate roof of the more traditional buildings.

Another viewpoint was shown from Bridge Street near the McKee Clock and again the overall height of the buildings sat well in the context and the strong vertical emphasis of the fenestration was visible which again was a strong feature of many of the more traditional buildings in the area. HED and the Planning Department shared initial concerns regarding the visual impact of proposed roof plant on some of the buildings as those could often appear very unsightly if not carefully designed. The planner's main concern was in respect of the plant associated with the hotel but through constructive amendments the architects had managed to achieve relative concealment behind the parapet wall of the hotel.

A viewpoint was taken from behind the Marine Gardens area. From here the bay features could be seen that had been incorporated into the design of the apartment block which again paid tribute to the more traditional buildings. The building also had strong bookend features to address both corners.

As had been mentioned previously, a number of amendments were made to the scheme throughout the processing of the application. One of the main amendments

made at the request of the Planning Department, was a reduction in the height of the apartment block facing onto Market Place. The Head of Planning explained that that was considered to be overly dominant in the skyline and she hoped Members would agree that the amended scheme provided a much better solution.

As with any proposal of this magnitude, extensive consultation with a range of statutory government departments was required throughout the processing of the application. All consultees had now raised no objections to the proposal with the exception of Rivers Agency.

DFI Rivers reservation inundation maps indicated that the site was in an area of inundation emanating from Clandeboye Lake and it had not been demonstrated that the condition, management and maintenance regime of Clandeboye Lake was appropriate to provide sufficient assurance regarding reservoir safety as required under Policy FLD 5. DFI Rivers had also carried out an assessment of flood risk to people at this site for an uncontrolled release of water emanating from Clandeboye Lake should it occur. As a result of that analysis, the overall hazard rating at the site was considered high which was considered by DFI Rivers to be an unacceptable combination of depth and velocity for the development.

That consultation response, however, was one of many material considerations to be balanced in the assessment of the proposal including the previous approval which only expired in July last year. In that case the reservoir of concern was located more than 2.6 km away. The proposal was a multimillion pound investment site that had been extremely long in the waiting for redevelopment. Over the past two decades several initiatives had been progressed between the former Department of Social Development and the Council and now the Department for Communities in conjunction with the Council, and some £9M of public money had been spent assembling the site with clean title to encourage submission of an appropriate development brief to regenerate and reinvigorate that strategic location within the city centre.

The site was a brownfield site and many of the existing buildings could be refurbished and extended at any time. Additionally, given the phasing of the project and the time to complete, it was anticipated that the outstanding matters relating to the introduction of subordinate legislation could be resolved to require compliance by the reservoir owner, and thus provide the requisite condition assurance. More detail on that was provided within the case officer report. Whilst recognising the harm that Policy FLD 5 sought to protect against, it was considered that the public interest in bringing a comprehensive redevelopment scheme to this dilapidated area significantly outweighed that particular policy non-compliance.

In summary, the Head of Planning, explained that she had worked with the Principal Professional and Technical Officers, Mrs Todd and Mrs Kerr, and Angela Wiggam (Planning agent for the applicant) and Nigel Murray (architect from Todd Architects) and others in the developer's expert team to ensure that what was proposed in this multi-million-pound regeneration scheme would stand the test of time.

Having the opportunity presented they had been determined to ensure that the design, layout, functionality and arrangement of space, truly contributed to the

making of a positive place in the heart of Bangor. She added that officers had worked with the architects to ensure that the final product was something that the people in Bangor, and the wider Borough, could be proud of.

It was now considered that the proposal was in compliance with the development plan, the draft development plan and prevailing regional planning policy and guidance within the exception of Policy FLD 5 of PPS 15: Planning and Flood Risk. It was stated that there had been no significant level of objection to the application either since the original presentation to Committee or in the intervening months. No material considerations had been put forward that were considered to outweigh the social and economic benefits that were presented within this development proposal. The proposal represented a major regeneration opportunity to act as a catalyst for change in Bangor Town Centre, in line with the objectives identified within the Regional Development Strategy.

So, weighing up all of the material considerations it was recommended to the Committee that on balance the planning application should be approved subject to the execution of a Planning Agreement prepared under Section 76 of The Planning Act and that delegated powers be granted to further refine the planning conditions as appropriate.

She thanked everyone present for listening to what had been a lengthy presentation, and indicated that if Members had any questions those could be directed towards the Planning Team or the Developer's Team who would be happy to provide clarification.

(Angela Wiggam (Planning agent for the applicant) and Nigel Murray (architect from Todd Architects) were admitted to the meeting from the public gallery).

The Chair welcomed the two speakers, and Angela Wiggam, thanked the Planning Committee for the opportunity to be present, she and Nigel Murray had nothing further to add but would be happy to take questions from Members.

Councillor P Smith noted key changes in the Section 76 legal agreement and the elements related to the carparking at the site and the reduction in the numbers from what was considered standard for such a development. He appreciated that mitigations had been put in place with a travelcard for people who would purchase one-bedroom apartments and there would be off street parking provided for them further down the line. He thought it could be presumed that although the use of public transport would be encouraged those people would likely also have a car.

Angela Wiggam explained that that position had been written up in the addendum and had always been in place even when the application was presented in January to the Committee. The travel cards in lieu of the space was part of a wider overall plan about the management of cars and vehicles at the site. Section 76 honed-in on that aspect, and she was confident that the spaces would be available and in fact the second scheme could not be delivered until those spaces were in place.

Alderman Keery expressed some disappointment from the pre determination meeting where it was stated that work on site would not begin until late next year. That concerned him slightly since discussions about Queen's Parade had been

ongoing since his election to the Council 1997. He knew that the people of Bangor would be frustrated by what felt like a further delay.

Angela Wiggam appreciated the frustration expressed but indicated that there were always pre commencement conditions in place and the sheer scale of this development needed to be remembered. It was a simple fact of construction that some conditions needed time to be worked through although everyone involved had done their best to reduce those. Nigel Murray added that in reality this was a collection of buildings in what was a significant development and each building would have a massive amount of detailed design work to carry out. He understood the point the Alderman was making but assured everyone that although the work at this stage was invisible it was still being carried out in preparation for the onsite work which would follow.

The Chair suggested that in fairness this evening's meeting should hopefully bring a significant step forward for the Queen's Parade development. The Head of Planning reiterated those comments explaining that there were 58 conditions attached to this development which required further studies within certain timeframes. An example was ecologist reports for breeding birds in the area which needed to be carried out in a set season of the year. She further outlined that the work could have started already if the Department had not held it up for over a year. All planning permission had time limits to start within five years but it was not legally possible to compel a developer to develop any project before that time.

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

Councillor Cathcart was pleased that the proposed development had reached this stage where it could now be approved and believed that he and Councillor P Smith had proposed and seconded when it was brought to the Committee in 2021. He remarked on the ridiculous delay which had been brought about by the Department but that extensive campaigning had ensured the Department correctly returned the application back to the Council. As discussed in January 2021 it was a large scheme and there may be elements that everyone did not agree with, but the regeneration benefits of the scheme would be great. For too long he considered Queen's Parade negatively and he hoped this would be the beginning of its association with revival. £50M investment in the city centre would be a real boost to the local economy and he thanked Bangor Marine for its ongoing commitment to the project and to everyone else who had worked on getting to this point including the Planning Committee.

Councillor P Smith described the feeling of déjà vu and hoped this would be the last hurdle for the Queen's Parade development. As had been said by the Head of Planning it would be a significant opportunity for Bangor city centre and the City Deal was also progressing. He also added his thanks to officers for taking this forward especially with the 13 month delay that had been endured.

The Chair of the Committee thanked the many officers who had been involved in getting such a significant application to this stage. The Committee agreed with the decision unanimously.

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

4. REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY REGARDING UPCOMING DFI NOTICES OF OPINION

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning detailing:

Purpose of Report

1. This report sought delegated authority for the Head of Planning to respond to forthcoming Notices of Opinion from the Department for Infrastructure in relation to outstanding reserved matters being considered by it.

Background

2. Lands at Riverside, south of Comber bypass stage 2, were zoned for housing in the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015, adopted in March 2009. The then Department for the Environment (DOE) considered a planning application under X/2009/0858/O for the following proposal:

Mixed use development involving residential, retail, nursing home, sheltered accommodation, creche, business park (A1, B1, B2 and B4) and extension to salt marsh

3. The DOE considered that the development for which planning permission was sought would, if permitted, affect the whole of a neighbourhood and as such applied Article 31 of The Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, and determined the application as an approval on 22 December 2016. In line with The Planning (2011 Act) (Commencement No. 3) and (Transitional Provisions) Order (NI) 2015 the Department for Infrastructure was responsible for determining any associated consents for the reserved matters as conditioned on the 2016 Outline approval.

Previous Council approval of Notices of Opinion to Approve

4. The Council previously noted the Notice of Opinion to approve the reserved matters submitted under LA06/2017/0778/RM and LA06/2019/1265/RM, without seeking a hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission.

Detail

5. A number of applications relating to reserved matters had been submitted to the Department as followed:

Phase 1 – ‘Little Enler Way’

X/2011/0343/F - 17no. dwellings constructed at Newtownards Road roundabout

Phase 2 – Course Hill

LA06/2017/0778/RM – 168no. dwellings, open space, access roads, pumping station and other associated works – consented 17/06/2021

Phase 3 – Course Hill

LA06/2018/0997/RM – Residential development comprising 167 housing units, open space, access roads, pumping station and other associated works -

Phase 4 – Dinah Island

LA06/2019/0568/RM – Residential development comprising 80 housing units, open space, access roads and other associated works

Phase 5 – Enler Quay

LA06/2019/1265/RM – Play area and attenuation basin – consented 17/06/21

LA06/2019/1252/RM - Residential development comprising 362 housing units, open space including linear walkway and saltmarsh creation, access roads, pumping station and other associated works

Phase 6 – Village Core & Local Centre

LA06/2020/0129/RM - Village Centre (4no retail units, creche and nursing home), residential units (7no. houses, 8 no. apartments above shops) and 10 no. business park units (B1, B2 and B4), open space and pumping station.

LA06/2019/1252/RM - Residential development comprising 362 housing units, open space including linear walkway and saltmarsh creation, access roads, pumping station and other associated works

Phase 7 – Business Park

LA06/2018/1295/RM – Erection of 2no. Class B1(b) or B1(c) business units with associated car parking, access roads, pumping station, landscaping and other site works

6. The Department had made the planning agent aware that Notices of Opinion (citing approval of reserved matters) were currently being prepared, initially for the two applications, followed by the remaining matters:
 - LA06/2018/1295/RM – Erection of 2no. Class B1(b) or B1(c) business units with associated car parking, access roads, pumping station, landscaping and other site works; and
 - LA06/2019/1252/RM - Residential development comprising 362 housing units, open space including linear walkway and saltmarsh creation, access roads, pumping station and other associated works.

7. It was the Department's intention to approve each of the remaining reserved matters. The associated letters anticipated would set out the Notice of Opinion for each and the proposed conditions.

8. Were the Council to wish to appear before and be heard by the Planning Appeals Commission in relation to any of the proposed grants of consent it was required to request such an opportunity within 28 days of the letter from DFI.
9. Given that those were not technically planning applications, rather confirmation of the details of those matters set out in the conditions attached to the Outline planning permission, to which the Council had not objected, it was not considered appropriate to seek a hearing(s).
10. The planning agent had contacted the Head of Planning to advise that it was critical to get the reserved matters consented as soon as possible as the developer was reaching a crucial trigger point in the continuity of development.
11. There was a condition requiring the building of 1000sqm of the business park space before the 51st residential unit was occupied, and as the intention was to build out the second phase of housing in parallel with phase one already approved, it was anticipated that the trigger point would be reached at the end of August 2022.
12. If the reserved matters consent were to be held up in respect of LA06/2018/1295/RM then the Council was advised that the developer would have to pull off site to ensure that no breach of planning control occurred. That would have inevitable economic consequences for the developer (comprising two separate companies) and the respective workforces.
13. The planning agent had provided the detail below for Members' information
 - Commercial Area**
 - o £4.5million investment;
 - o each block would take approx. 30 jobs to construct
 - o each block would generate approx. 55 - 60 jobs when completed
 - o 10 months to construct 1st block of commercial area for occupation
 - o Rateable income annually of between £53,750 and £67,272
 - 362 Residential Units**
 - o £6.35million investment;
 - o 100 to 150 construction jobs
 - o Potential 15-20 jobs when completed re maintenance of grounds, roads and services etc.
 - o 5.5 years construction programme based on approx. 65 – 70 units/year
 - o Rateable income annually of all units
14. Subject to no objections or representations seeking the application(s) be dealt with by way of hearing by the Planning Appeals Commission, the relevant consents relating to the reserved matters will issue.
15. This report was therefore being brought to seek delegated authority for the Head of Planning to respond to the Department's Notices of Opinion when they were received to advise that the Council did not intend to seek any hearings, to

avoid any delay or subsequent impact on continuity of development/employment on the site.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the content of this report and grants delegated authority to the Head of Planning to approve the Notices of Opinion when received.

The Head of Planning outlined the report advising that the recommendation was for delegated authority for the Head of Planning to respond to expected notices of opinion in relation to the Enler Village development in Comber. This was a development that was previously approved by the DfI Minister in 2010 and then 2016. DfI was dealing with all aspects under the transitions of the power.

Two decisions were expected shortly and they would need to be turned around quickly. The Council would be asked to respond if it required a hearing before the Planning Appeals Commission and would need to respond within 28 days. Given the Council had had no objections previously to the development it would be unlikely that the Council would be asking for any hearing before the PAC.

The Head of Planning was therefore asking for delegated authority to turn them around quickly which would provide continuity of employment on what was an extensive site. The rateable income value to the Council was outlined within the report along with the job valuation in terms of the number of workers on site.

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

Councillor P Smith understood the history of the development and that under reserved matters there would be 800 units approved for the site without Council having any say. He had previously raised concerns around the infrastructure in Comber and how the development would impact on that further.

With those reservations around the infrastructure impacts, he was therefore reluctantly proposing the recommendation as he felt it was the lesser of two evils and he did not want to hinder the development and make a bad situation worse. While the approval of the application was out of the Council's remit, he felt it was a case now of Council doing what it could to minimise the impact on the wider town as the development came under way.

Councillor Cathcart asked if the PAC was the only mechanism that Council had if it was unhappy with the decision made by the DfI.

The Head of Planning confirmed that was correct and it would be normal practice for the Council to be consulted as the applications came in. However in relation to the two applications in question for the development, DfI could elect not to undertake that consultation. The difficulty in this particular case was that the outline planning permission had already established the size and number of units but the reserved matters were just in relation to elevations and street layout of the development.

Councillor Cathcart asked what approach would need to be taken, in terms of pre-application discussions with Council, if the site was split up. The Head of Planning advised that those could be confined to the reserved matters that were originally dealt with by the DfI. It would only come to Council if a further planning application was made.

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

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7.55 pm.



14 July 2022

Dear Consultee

Consultation on Proposal to Publish RQIA Inspection Reports relating to Children's Services

RQIA is seeking views on proposals to publish the Inspection Reports relating to Children's Services through a public consultation.

Today we have launched this Consultation for a 14 week period, closing on 20 October 2022. The Consultation documents are published on [our website](#), including: the Consultation proposals; an easy read version of the Consultation proposals; the Equality Screening outcome; and a Consultation Response template.

At present, RQIA publishes inspection reports on our website relating to services provided to adults, but does not publish those relating to Children's Services. The current arrangement aims to protect the privacy of children and young people and to prevent attempts by anyone who would seek to target or exploit them. However, withholding publication of reports relating to services for children and young people prevents the wider public from having information about the quality of services being provided, and how they are functioning.

Our Consultation proposes that we publish these inspection reports in an anonymised format, which we consider will protect the privacy of the children and young people who access these services. We would welcome your views on our proposed way forward.

RQIA, 7th Floor
Victoria House
15-27 Gloucester Street
Belfast BT1 4LS

Tel 028 9536 1111
Email info@rqia.org.uk
Web www.rqia.org.uk
Twitter @RQIANews

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Silver

Should you have any difficulty accessing the documents, or require these in an alternative format, please contact us at:

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
7th Floor, Victoria House
15-27 Gloucester Street
Belfast
BT1 4LS

Tel: (028) 9536 1111

Email: info@rqia.org.uk

During the Consultation period, we will host a number of online events. Full details will be published on our website and promoted via social media or correspondence.

Thank you in anticipation of your involvement in this Consultation.

Yours sincerely,



Briege Donaghy
Chief Executive

Unclassified

86

ITEM 8.2.**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	27 July 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Environment
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Assets and Property Services
Date of Report	24 June 2022
File Reference	65373
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	DAERA Consultation on Management of Fast Craft and PWCs in Marine Protected Areas
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Draft Consultation Response

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 are 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 closes 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 is likely that a second

Unclassified

87

consultation will be required. Officers believe that there has been no further progress on this at this present time.

However, the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has 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 these management options is now live and officers' draft responses are attached for Council approval.

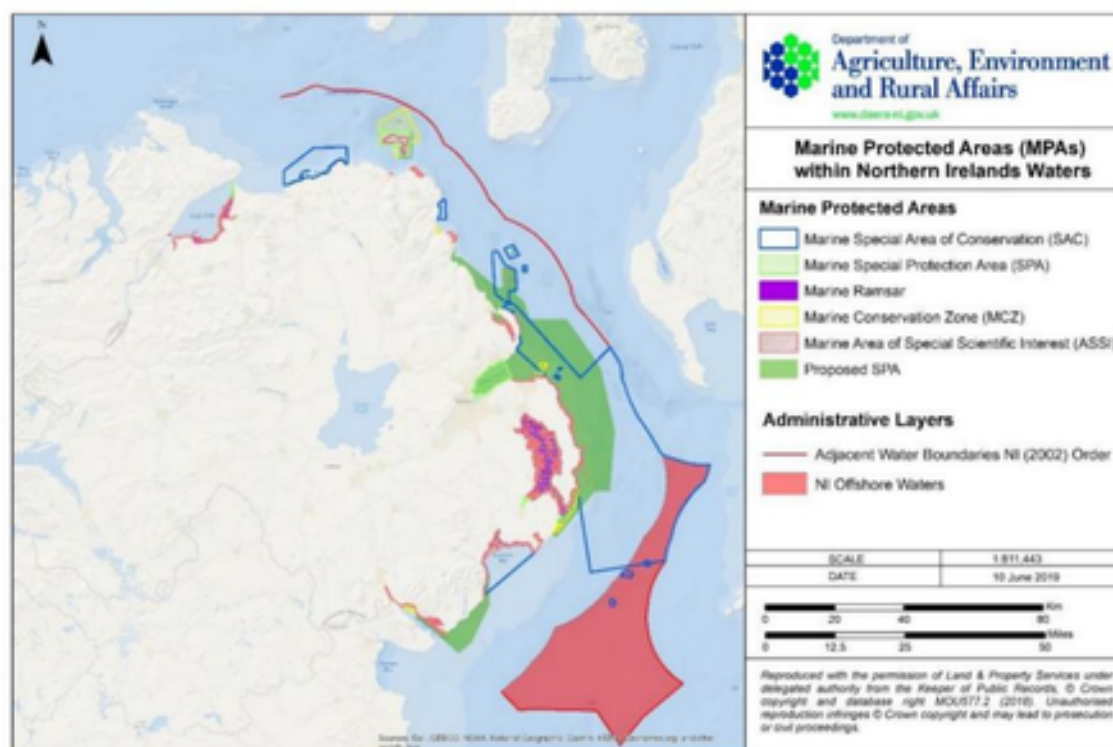
RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approves the consultation response attached.

Appendix 1 – Draft Consultation Response Ards and North Down Borough Council

Consultation on management measures for the use of fast craft and Personal Water Craft (PWC) in Marine Protected Areas

Figure 1: Map of Marine Protected Areas in Northern Ireland



How can the risk of disturbance to marine wildlife be reduced?

1. Do you agree with the Department's definition that a Commercial tour operator is, " anyone who uses their vessel to carry fee paying customers for leisure purposes including, but not limited to, activities such as, diving, angling, wildlife tour and thrill rides"?

Commercial tour operator isn't just someone who uses a 'vessel' (as defined) to carry fee paying customers for leisure. There are operators who take large groups on excursions for leisure using kayaks, canoes, Stand Up Paddle Boards and E-Foils etc, these non motorised vessels may or may not be provided by the operator. These operators/groups can equally cause as much disturbance and should be included. Anyone running a commercial enterprise in and around the protected area should be required to be WiSe accredited.

However, who is/will be responsible for enforcement should the situation arise where they are operating without the accreditation or permits etc?

2. Are there any other activities that you feel should be included under this definition?

This should be extended to other groups including kayaking groups/clubs, yacht clubs, rowing clubs etc. While clubs are easier to manage/target there is then a large amount of people who do many of the activities mentioned above in motorised and non motorised craft on the water independently and they need to be reached as well as they too can cause disturbance.

3. Do you support the proposal, "Permitted access to marine protected areas for all commercial tour operators conditional on the vessel's skipper gaining certification in the WiSe Scheme"?

Yes, but again needs to be extended to include other groups / clubs and if possible individuals through education and awareness campaigns.

4. If you are a commercial tour operator, what impact would this proposal have on your business?

N/A

5. Do you have any evidence or points of view that you wish the Department to consider relevant to this proposal?

As a Council we have received numerous complaints of disturbance in terms of wildlife disturbance and noise/nuisance etc in and around Strangford/Portaferry and along the Outer Ards Peninsula. There are difficulties with identifying users and also who then is responsible for the enforcement and how is it to be policed?

What research has been carried out to show this entire proposed area needs to be an SPA? There needs to be a sound research to base to support this new approach. Is there evidence to show the situation is getting worse and if now is the starting point, then what evidence is there to support the notion that that PWC are responsible for the disturbance etc.

Can the latest Condition Assessment relating to common seals in Strangford Lough SAC, be shared which details the unfavourable status?

Fast Craft and PWC

Strangford Lough SAC

1. Do you support the proposal, "The Department is proposing four Prohibition zones in Strangford Narrows (Cloghy Rocks, Granagh Bay, Bar Hall Bay and Angus Rock). The prohibition will apply to PWC and other leisure craft not used in navigation"?

Yes, but would ask if this is being granted because of the proposed SPA? What is the mechanism for designating this, will there be consultation? Reason being is that Council will be asked such questions even though it won't be designated by Council but by DAERA.

2. Do you support the proposal, "Permitted access to the SAC for PWC users, conditional on the user's agreement to abide by a code of practice for the operation of PWC in Strangford Lough SAC"?

Yes, but who is responsible for enforcement and what powers will be available should the user fail to abide by the COP. The main issue falls with the irresponsible users, and therefore enforcement of any COP is key in addressing the issues. There are issues with noise and anti social behaviour associated with PWC's also and it is important the COP addresses all issues which go hand in hand. Will there be public consultation on this?

3. Do you support the proposal, "Provision of Advisory Notice for the operation of fast craft in the SAC"? 17 4. Do you have any evidence or points of view that you wish the Department to consider relevant to these proposals?

Yes, I assume this is or will be displayed at points of entry to the water in the same way as the bathing water signs at beaches. There is low engagement with the number of people who read these types of notice. It is important that the information is also displayed through social media etc and this is given appropriate funding in order to get the message out as best as possible. Will there be public consultation on this?

4. Do you have any evidence or points of view that you wish the Department to consider relevant to these proposals?

As a Council we have received numerous complaints of disturbance in terms of wildlife disturbance and noise/nuisance etc in and around Strangford/Portaferry and along the Outer Ards Peninsula. There are difficulties with identifying users and also who then is responsible for the enforcement and how is it to be policed? Jet Skis for example don't have registration plates so an observer would have to try to follow the user back to their point of entry to be able to try and get a car registration number. Also given the inaccessible locations someone on the land may find it hard to either observe or take evidence in the form of pictures or videos of a user disturbing wildlife such as birds or seals given the speed that these craft operate at. While you might be able to convey the responsible use message at the point of sale of these type of craft many are bought and sold privately so the difficulty lies in how to reach those users.

North Channel SAC

1. Do you support the proposal, "The Department will maintain its monitoring programme and continue to gather evidence to help inform future decision making processes throughout the SAC"?

Yes but clarification on the details of the monitoring programme should be made clear and included.

2. Do you support the proposal, "Provision of Advisory Notice for operation of fast craft in the SAC"?

Yes, I assume this is or will be displayed at points of entry to the water in the same way as the bathing water signs at beaches. There is low engagement with the number of people who read these types of notice. It is important that the information is also displayed through social media etc and this is given appropriate funding in order to get the message out as best as possible

3. Do you have any evidence or points of view that you wish the Department to consider relevant to these proposals?

As a Council we have received numerous complaints of disturbance in terms of wildlife disturbance and noise/nuisance etc in and around Strangford/Portaferry and along the Outer Ards Peninsula. There are difficulties with identifying users and also who then is responsible for the enforcement and how is it to be policed? Jet Skis for example don't have registration plates so an observer would have to try to follow the user back to their point of entry to be able to try and get a car registration number. Also given the inaccessible locations someone on the land may find it hard to either observe or take evidence in the form of pictures or videos of a user disturbing wildlife such as birds or seals given the speed that these craft operate at. While you might be able to convey the responsible use message at the point of sale of these type of craft many are bought and sold privately so the difficulty lies in how to reach those users.

Dear Consultee

GAS (DESIGNATION OF PIPE-LINES) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022

The Department for the Economy (DfE) has 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 will 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 means that certain costs relating to these pipelines will 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 is in line with established postalisation policy for the economic and efficient development of the natural gas industry in Northern Ireland and is not expected to result in any increase in consumers' gas bills.

Further information on the reasons for, and effects of, the Designation Order are outlined in the public notice, draft regulatory impact assessment, equality screening form and rural needs impact assessment which are 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, are required **by Tuesday 23rd August 2022**.

How to respond

Using the response template available at the above link:

- By e-mail to gasbranch@economy-ni.gov.uk; or
- Alternatively, hard copy replies can be sent to the address below:

Gas Policy Branch
Department for the Economy
Room 44
Netherleigh House
Massey Avenue
Belfast BT1 4JP

All responses should be submitted by **Tuesday 23rd August 2022** and may be shared with the Utility Regulator.

If you have any queries on this paper or the public notice process, please e-mail gasbranch@economy-ni.gov.uk

Unclassified

94

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	27 July 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	11 July 2022
File Reference	CX62
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Attendance at the APSE Seminar and AGM in Swansea from 14-15 September 2022
Attachments	Invitation

Background

The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) is owned by its members and on their behalf, maintains and develops a network of local government officers, managers, and councillors from local authorities. APSE supports local authorities develop strong and sustainable public services.

Members are asked to consider the invitation to attend the APSE Seminar and AGM in Swansea from 14-15 September. Attendance is free for two delegates from each Council, one Officer and one Member, with attendees responsible for 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 are no appropriate Officers available to attend on this occasion.

RECOMMENDATION

It is 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

Unclassified

95

delegate place but including the cost of travel, accommodation and subsistence as set out in this report.

From: Mo Baines
Sent: 08 July 2022 17:46
To: Mo Baines <MBaines@apse.org.uk>
Subject: A message from APSE National Chair Cllr Andrea Lewis - APSE Annual Seminar and Service Awards 2022

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

A message from APSE National Chair Cllr Andrea Lewis

Dear National Council Colleagues, Advisory Group Chairs and Strategic Forum Chairs,

APSE Annual Seminar and Service Awards 2022 Swansea: Wednesday 14 – Thursday 15 September 2022

As you all know I am very proud that APSE has chosen Swansea to host this year's APSE Annual Seminar and Service Awards Dinner 2022. As I am sure you will all agree Swansea creates a spectacular backdrop to APSE's showcase event. Both I and my National Secretary, Chris Cutforth, are very much looking forward to you meeting you in Swansea, so you are able to see first-hand our new Swansea Arena, along with the spectacular new developments and transformation of our city centre, complimented by our beautiful coast-line.

I would of course value the support of all APSE National Council Members, Advisory Group and Strategic Forum Chairs at this event. I therefore wanted to take this opportunity to remind you, that with my agreement, APSE is once again offering all its' member councils the opportunity to take up one free place for an elected member and one free place for an officer at this event. This generous offer will of course help to ensure that your council is represented at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on **Wednesday 14 September** where nominations for Advisory Group Chairs and Secretaries will take place.

I would strongly urge you to book early so you are able to both reserve your FREE place at the seminar and to secure your accommodation package. It would help the success of this event if you are able to make use of both the elected member and officer place, and to also book the three night accommodation package so you are able to attend our welcome reception on the evening of **Tuesday 13 September** at the rise of the National Council meeting.

For ease of reference details about the free main contact places are replicated below together with a link to the full seminar programme which I am sure you will agree carries some outstanding speakers.

If you have any queries about the booking process or need help please contact your APSE lead advisor for your area (Louise Melville, Scotland lmelville@apse.org.uk Rob Bailey, Wales rbailey@apse.org.uk Mo Baines, Northern Ireland, mbaines@apse.org.uk Abi Ademiluyi, Southern, aademiluyi@apse.org.uk Wayne Priestley, Northern wpriestley@apse.org.uk and Vickie Hacking, Central vhacking@apse.org.uk)

Kindest regards

Cllr Andrea Lewis, APSE National Chair

FREE Annual Seminar Package for APSE Main Contacts and a Councillor from your authority

Full Delegate Place: APSE Annual Seminar and Service Awards Dinner 2022 worth £850*

Please use [this link](#) to book your **2 FREE** places but please remember to use code **FMC22** in the special requirements/ information box on the online form.

As an APSE main contact, you are entitled to a **FREE** full delegate package to attend APSE's Annual Seminar 2022. However, in recognition of the extraordinary efforts of our APSE member local councils during the health pandemic APSE's National Council have once again extended this package to include a complimentary place for a nominated councillor from your authority. This is a unique opportunity for senior officers and councillors to spend time at an event dedicated to excellence in local government, celebrating our frontline services and debating the very latest local government policy research.

This package is worth **£425** per person and includes the following: -

- **Evening of Tuesday 13 September** - two delegate passes to gain to the pre-seminar welcome 'fish and chip' reception at the Georgian Manor House, with a special guest speaker sharing the Maritime History of Swansea

Swansea Arena *A brand new Arena, supported by Swansea City Council in its ambitious regeneration of Swansea City Centre, within one of the most vibrant and welcoming areas of Wales, where city meets the coast, will then host the remainder of our events which are as follows:-*

- **Daytime Wednesday 14 September** – two delegate passes to gain access to the APSE seminar plenary sessions, leadership forum and local government innovation exhibition
- **Evening Wednesday 14 September** – two delegate passes to gain access to the APSE Annual General Meeting which elects our representatives for the coming year followed by supper and time to network
- **Daytime Thursday 15 September** - access to the APSE seminar plenary sessions, business challenges sessions, specialist networks and local government innovation exhibition
- **Evening Thursday 15 September** – access to the APSE Service Awards Charity Dinner 2022 for councillors and officers to celebrate the best in local government

Online bookings to secure your two FREE places are now open. Please use [this link](#) but please remember to use code **FMC22** in the special requirements/ information box on the online form.

The seminar will highlight the major policy and delivery changes to impact on local government services including:-

- Climate Change and the ecological emergency
- Place making: Neighbourhoods, High Streets and Housing
- Shaping future operational delivery
- Workforce skills and building future capacity

- Waste and resources

From a strategic perspective the seminar will also consider

- Outcomes from the APSE Local Government Commission 2030
- The future role of local councillors
- Local government finance
- Reorganisation

Accommodation

Accommodation is **not included** but you can reserve your hotel accommodation online all as 'bed and breakfast' packages within Swansea City Centre and within walking distance to the Swansea Arena.

I hope that you are able to take advantage of this complimentary package.

Please remember to book your place early as places will be limited and we will need to take a 'first come first served' approach to places.

Mo Baines

APSE, Deputy Chief Executive

Tel: 0161 772 1810 Email: mbaines@apse.org.uk

Web: www.apse.org.uk



We're on Twitter and LinkedIn! Follow us:



[Update my email preferences](#)

Printing this email? Please think environmentally and only print when essential. Thank you

Unclassified

99

ITEM 10

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	27 July 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Environment
Responsible Head of Service	Building Control, Licensing and Neighbourhood Environment
Date of Report	07 July 2022
File Reference	LR 100 / 90101
Legislation	The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Grant of Outdoor Entertainment Licence
Attachments	None

An application for an outdoor entertainment licence has 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 has provided a draft event Management Plan and there are no objections to the plan or application from the NIFRS, PSNI or Environmental Health.

The statutory public consultation period will run until the 15 July 2022 which is 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

Unclassified

100

the 15 July 2022 the Council will need to consider it/them when they consider this report.

Special conditions

Environmental Health has 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 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.

RECOMMENDATION

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.

Unclassified

101

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	27 July 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Organisational Development and Administration
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	06 July 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Bangor Ladies Choir
Attachments	Letter from Bangor Ladies Choir

Bangor Ladies Choir has written to the Council (copy attached) to ask Council to consider appointing them as Ambassadors to the recently awarded City of Bangor, under the same structure as their previous appointment by the North Down Borough Council. The Choir feels that it could promote and showcase the City of Bangor when travelling around the UK and beyond. They also feel, as a Choir of over 70 females representing a wide and diverse range of community backgrounds, that they are 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.

RECOMMENDATION

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



31 May 2022

Chairperson: Anne Poots
E: anne.poots@btinternet.com
12 Belgravia Avenue, Bangor, BT19 6XA

Dear Stephen

Bangor Ladies Choir would like to congratulate Ards and North Down Borough Council on achieving City Status. This is such an honour for Bangor and one which the majority of residents are rightly proud. Our new City has so many attributes from the realms of culture, arts, and heritage to community spirit, royal connections and historical events, many of which emanated from our doorstep, and it is wonderful to see these being recognised by the award of City Status.

Many years ago, under North Down Borough Council, Bangor Ladies Choir was appointed as Ambassadors of the town of Bangor and were always extremely proud to be representatives of the Town wherever we travelled in the world. We were always very conscious of our reputation in representing our Town and always referred to Bangor in a positive manner and endorsed the beautiful attractions and areas we have to offer visitors. In our own way, we showcased the Town and many choirs travelled to Bangor over the years due to the visits made by Bangor Ladies Choir.

The appointment was of great prestige to us as a Choir but did not involve any financial support from Council, nor was that the expectation from the Choir. We took on this role as a privilege and it was an honour to promote the town of Bangor, as it was then. Over the years the Choir has travelled around the UK and ROI as well as further afield to USA and Canada where, in all places, we promoted the merits of our wonderful town and its offerings.

The Choir have strong connections with the St Columbanus/Christian Heritage associations both in Bobbio and Bregenz and have travelled to both towns, performing in the St Columbanus Abbey in Bobbio, as well as visiting several other Italian towns who hold St Columbanus and his teachings very dear to them. We had planned a return visit in 2020 but, due to the Pandemic, this has now been rescheduled for 2024. We also have connections with the St Columbanus groups in Republic of Ireland and travelled to his birthplace near Carlow in Wexford to give a concert. We have also performed in Bangor Abbey several times with Italian choirs who have visited Bangor as part of a pilgrimage.

We feel, as a Choir of over 70 females representing a wide and diverse range of community backgrounds, that we are in an effective and prominent position to take on the role of Ambassadors for the City of Bangor and we would like to ask Council to consider appointing Bangor Ladies Choir as Ambassadors once again, under the same structure as the previous appointment, where we can promote and showcase the City of Bangor when travelling around the UK and beyond. As previously, this role would be of an honorary status for the choir with no remuneration expected or required.

We can assure Ards and North Down Borough Council that this appointment would be in the best interests of the City of Bangor and that the role of Ambassador would be in safe hands with Bangor Ladies Choir.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Anne

Anne Poots
Chairperson
Bangor Ladies Choir

Unclassified

103

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	27 July 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Organisational Development and Administration
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Administration
Date of Report	06 July 2022
File Reference	LP37
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Requests to light up Council buildings: 1. Blood Cancer Awareness Month 2. Relate NI - 75 th Anniversary 3. Black History Month
Attachments	

1. Blood Cancer Awareness MonthRequestor

Collette McMorrow – Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI

Reason for request

To mark Blood Cancer Awareness Month

Dates and coloursLighting up Ards Arts Centre / Ards Town Hall and McKee Clock red on 1st September 2022 and annually thereafter.Background information

Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI is the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to blood cancer research. Their mission is to improve survival rates and quality of life for all

Unclassified

104

blood cancer patients by supporting clinicians, scientists and students in NI, researching these diseases. September is Blood Cancer Awareness Month, and their aim is to raise awareness and understanding of blood cancers. They are contacting all the Councils in NI to make the same request.

Does it meet policy requirements?

As this request does not meet the specific criteria set out in the policy (not based in or connected to the Borough), it requires 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 4th September 2022.

Background information

Relate NI is the leading relationship support charity in NI, and they are about to celebrate their 75th anniversary of supporting relationships and families across Northern Ireland on 4th September 2022. They currently provide 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 can be found at: <https://www.relateni.org/>

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

Does it meet policy requirements?

Yes - request has 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) – 21st October 2022 is "Wear Red Day – Show Racism the Red Card".

Unclassified

105

Dates and colours

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

Background information

During October, the UK celebrates Black History Month and on the 21st of October 2022 "Wear Red - Show Racism the Red Card" is taking place. The aims of Black History Month are to celebrate the achievements and contributions of black people not just in the UK but around the world.

Black History Month celebrates 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 is celebrated around the world.

The North West Migrants Forum has 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 will 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 will 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 represents black and minority ethnic (BAME) communities who reside in Northern Ireland and there is no comparable group within the Borough.

Does it meet policy requirements?

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is 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.

Unclassified

106

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	27 July 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks & Cemeteries and Interim Head of Environmental Health Protection and Development.
Date of Report	27 June 2022
File Reference	PCA100
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Sea Swimming Consultation Update
Attachments	Appendix Letter from DEARA dated 16 th June 2022

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 NoM 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 these 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.

Unclassified

107

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.

The Department has now advised landowners including Councils of the locations which have 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 is attached at Appendix 1. The correspondence asked if Council would be willing to act as the Bathing Water Operator of any of the listed sites, which are 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 24th 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 does not rule out sea swimming taking place at any of these 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 3 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 will 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 3 sites with a recommendation on any feasibility of Council taking on the role of bathing water operator at those locations. DAERA are

Unclassified

108

arranging this meeting for the 3 agencies, but at the time of writing this had not yet been agreed.

RECOMMENDATION

It is 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.



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

109

Chief Executive, Ards and North Down
Borough Council
stephen.reid@northdownandards.gov.uk

DAERA Marine Strategy Branch
1st Floor
Klondyke Building
Cromac Avenue
Belfast
BT7 2JA

Telephone: 028 9056 9683

Email: paul.black@daera-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:

Our reference: BWR2022

Date: 16 June 2022

Dear Mr Reid,

2022 REVIEW OF BATHING WATERS CONSULTATION – NOMINATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs is undertaking a review of Bathing Waters during 2022/23 under [the Quality of Bathing Water Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2008](#).

You may recall that you were contacted in July 2021 as part of a pre-consultation exercise in seeking nominations for sites in your area where the Council would be prepared to take on the role of bathing water operator. At that time you indicated that you did not wish to pursue the identification of further Bathing Waters in your Council Area.

This letter is to advise you that the Department has now completed a public consultation and that there was significant public and press interest.

In total, 172 responses were received, with 352 nominations for bathing water identification, representing 101 different bathing water sites. The Department has analysed the results of the consultation and has compiled a list of those areas

identified by members of the public for consideration. The sites within your council area nominated by more than 1 respondent to the public consultation are listed at Annex A. The criteria for a Bathing Water, and detailed guidance on the responsibilities of a Bathing Water Operator are at Annex B.

The consultation also sought views on the length of the bathing season, which currently runs from 1 June – 15 September. A large majority of respondents requested that the bathing season be extended to accommodate year-round bathing, and this will be considered in the review. I would be grateful for any views you have on extending the bathing season.

The Department recognises that the level of public interest, and the range and number of sites which have been nominated for consideration is challenging under resource constraints of both central and local government. The Department therefore wishes to prioritise those sites which will represent the best use of limited resources.

Following analysis of the public consultation, please notify us if you are prepared to undertake Bathing Water Operator responsibilities for any of the sites within your Council area nominated by the public at Annex A. These sites will then be considered as candidates for further detailed assessment in relation to usage numbers, access, safety, water quality and other considerations.

I would be grateful if you could confirm;

- your position regarding potential identification of Bathing Waters in your Council area from Annex A;
- your view on potential extension of the annual bathing season; and
- whether you have any information you have on usage at candidate sites

by 30 June 2022.

I am aware of the press coverage that Ards and North Down Borough Council did not wish to nominate sites because of concerns about water quality. Given the considerable number of nominations from your area – the most in any council area - I am happy to set up a meeting to discuss the issue further, if required.

Paul Black
DAERA Marine & Fisheries Division
02890 569683

ANNEX A

PUBLICALLY NOMINATED BATHING SITES IN THE ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA

Ards and North Down Borough Council		
PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOMINATED BATHING SITE	NUMBER OF PUBLIC NOMINATIONS	GOOGLE MAPS LINK
Brompton	35	54°40'04.4"N 5°41'06.5"W - Google Maps
Skipping Stone Beach	26	54°40'00.5"N 5°40'38.9"W - Google Maps
Donaghadee Harbour	21	54°38'35.7"N 5°32'12.7"W - Google Maps
Portavoe	10	54°39'58.0"N 5°34'17.2"W - Google Maps
Barrs Bay	3	54°33'00.1"N 5°36'04.8"W - Google Maps
Burr Point Ballyhalbert	2	54°29'23.7"N 5°26'23.0"W - Google Maps
Hollywood	2	54°38'59.0"N 5°49'25.5"W - Google Maps

Please indicate if you are prepared to act as Bathing Water Operator for any of the sites listed at Table 2.

ANNEX B

THE QUALITY OF BATHING WATER REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008

The Regulations aim to protect public health and the environment by monitoring water quality at coastal and inland waters where there is an appropriate body willing to take on the formal responsibility of bathing water operator for the site, it is considered safe to bathe, and the site is used by a large number of bathers.

Those sites listed in the legislation are known as "identified" sites. There are currently 26 formally identified bathing waters in Northern Ireland, a list of which can be found at <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/bathing-water-quality>.

The Department has decided not to review the existing 26 bathing waters, as these are well-established, frequently used and have recognised bathing water operators in place.

BATHING WATER CRITERIA

To qualify as a formally identified bathing water, a nominated site must meet the following criteria;

- provision of initial usage evidence at the site (the selection criteria for candidate sites is over 45 **bathers** on at least one occasion **or** over 100 **beach users** on at least two occasions across a review period)
- evidence that bathing is not prohibited or inadvisable for reasons of safety
- provision of information about site facilities for example, signage, litter collection, site access, car parks, life guards, changing facilities
- confirmation from an appropriate body that it is willing to take on responsibility as the bathing water operator

If the Department is satisfied that these criteria have been met, it will verify usage data by conducting surveys at the candidate site during the course of the bathing season (which runs from June to mid-September). Should this be verified, and the other criteria continue to be met, the Department would then proceed to identify the sites in law.

GUIDANCE FOR BATHING WATER OPERATORS

The guidance document is appended below;



Guidance for Bathing
Water Operators July

Unclassified

115

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	27 July 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure and Amenities
Date of Report	15 June 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	Sports Forum Grants
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Successful Coaching Applications Appendix 2 - Successful Event Applications Appendix 3 - Successful Goldcard Applications Appendix 4 - Successful Individual Travel/Accommodation Applications 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 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**

Unclassified

116

successful applications are detailed in the attached Successful Coaching, Event, Goldcard and Travel/Accommodation Appendices.

For information, the annual budget and spend to date on grant categories is 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** is based on a proposed award of **£175** as outlined in Successful Coaching Applications – for Noting. The proposed remaining budget for Events of **£1,700** is based on a proposed award of **£2,000** – for Approval. The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **£9,020** is based on a proposed award of **£3,730** – for Noting, and withdrawn costs of £200.

RECOMMENDATION

It is 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.

AppName	Application	Course	Benefits	Facilitator	Start Date / End Date	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Asylum Weightlifting Club	Officials	BWL Level 2 Technical Official Course	We are a large competitive Club and attend all NIWL. In order for events to be run, Technical Officials are required. We have 10 Club members who have volunteered to undertake the qualification.	Fitness Industry	03/06/2022 03/06/2022	£75.00	£75.00	All documentation provided. Current guidelines state funding limits for Officials qualification courses are up to a maximum of £75. Propose £75.
Asylum Weightlifting Club	Coaching	Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport (online)	It will ensure the Club fulfils their Safeguarding obligations, as per their Safeguarding Policy and is also a mandatory part of the BWL Technical Official Licensing process in order to officiate at BWL competitions.	Sport NI	09/06/2022 09/06/2022	£200.00	£100.00	All documentation provided. Current guidelines state up to 50% of costs for Safeguarding Workshops. Propose £100.
						Total Proposed	£175.00	

Successful Events Applications - for Approving

June

2022/23

118

Applicant	Sport	Event	Event Outline	Start	End	Requested	Proposed	Notes
North Down Athletic Club	Athletics	2022 Bangor 10k	1000 participants. 10K road race starting in Castle Park, finishing in Ward Park. Race incorporates NI & Ulster 10k Championships, as designated by GB Athletics NI.	24/09/2022	24/09/2022	£7,775.00	£1,000.00	Propose £1,000 towards total project costs (£7,775), 'subject to' an Equity Policy and the Risk Assessment for the 10K, being signed and dated.
North Down Hockey Club	Hockey	2022 NDHC Youth Summer Scheme P1-7 Age	Young players taking part in a summer scheme with the aim of developing their interest and capabilities in the sport with an emphasis on fun and enjoyment.	08/08/2022	26/08/2022	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	All documentation provided. Propose £1,000 towards Pitch Hire (total project costs £5,880), 'subject to' the Risk Assessment for the Summer Scheme, being signed and dated.

Applicant	Sport	Event	Event Outline	Start	End	Requested	Proposed	Notes
						Total Proposed	£2,000.00	

Successful Goldcards - For Noting

Applicant	Representing	Sport	Event	Start	End	Gym	Proposed	Notes
Claire McLarnon	Ireland	Weightlifting	2022 European Masters Weightlifting	20/08/2022	28/08/2022	Bangor Aurora &	Awarded	Claire has provided evidence showing she is representing Ireland at the 2022 European Masters Weightlifting Championships, 20-28 August 2022 in Poland. Propose Goldcard.
Katie Brow	Ireland	Sailing	2022 Topper Worlds	25/07/2022	29/07/2022	Bangor Aurora Aquatic &	Awarded	Letter from RYANI advises Katie has been selected to attend the 2022 Topper Worlds, 25-29 July 2022 in Italy. Propose Goldcard.

Applicant	Representing	Sport	Event	Location	Start/ End	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Adam Booth	N Ireland	Equestrian Team	2022 Home Nations Pony Club Games	Royal Windsor Horse Show	12/05/2022 15/05/2022	£250.00	£150.00	Selection Letter advises, Adam is a member of North Down Branch of The Pony Club has been selected to represent Northern Ireland at Royal Windsor Horse Show as a member of The Pony Club Games team 9 – 15 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised amount £150.
Aimee Jordan	N Ireland	Acrobatic Gymnastics	2022 INTER-REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	SOUTHAMPTON GYMNASTICS	30/04/2022 01/05/2022	£100.00	£150.00	Selection Letter says "congratulations on obtaining a place to represent NI at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton, 30 April - 1 May, but does not state name of applicant. Recommend funding of 2022/23 amount, £150, subject to named letter.
Ashten Adair	N Ireland	Gymnastics	2022 INTER-REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	SOUTHAMPTON GYMNASTICS	30/04/2022 01/05/2022	£100.00	£150.00	Selection Letter says "congratulations on obtaining a place to represent NI at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton, 30 April - 1 May, but does not state name of applicant. Recommend funding of 2022/23 amount, £150, subject to named letter.

				Location	Start/ End	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Caitlin Moore	N Ireland	Gymnastics	2022 INTER-REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	SOUTHAMPTON GYMNASTICS	30/04/2022 01/05/2022	£100.00	£150.00	Selection Letter says "congratulations on obtaining a place to represent NI at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton, 30 April - 1 May, but does not state name of applicant. Recommend funding of 2022/23 amount, £150, subject to named letter.
Carolyn Patterson	N Ireland	Karate	2022 10th WIKF Global Cup 2022 International	Grakjaer Arena, Holstebro,	24/08/2022 28/08/2022	£752.28	£170.00	Selection Letter says Carolyn has been selected for the World Cup in Denmark, 24-28 August 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £170.
Charlie Belch	N Ireland	Acrobatic Gymnastics	2022 REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	SOUTHAMPTON GYMNASTICS	30/04/2022 01/05/2022	£347.98	£150.00	Selection Letter says "congratulations on obtaining a place to represent NI at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton, 30 April - 1 May, but does not state name of applicant. Recommend funding of 2022/23 amount, £150, subject to named letter.
Daniel McManus	Ireland	Triathlon	2022 Europe Triathlon Championships	Munich, Germany	14/08/2022 14/08/2022	£150.00	£170.00	Selection email advises Daniel has been selected to represent Ireland at the 2022 Europe Triathlon Championships in Munich, Germany on 14 August 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £170.

Daniel Palmer	Ireland	Sailing	2022 ITCA Topper World Championships	Riva Del Garda, Italy	23/07/2022 29/07/2022	£120.00	£170.00	Selection letter from RYA (NI) advises that Daniel has been selected to attend the ITCA Topper Worlds (Riva Del Garda, Italy) from 23-29 July. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £170.
Daniel Palmer	Ireland	Sailing	2022 EURILC4 European Championships	Dziwnow, Poland	18/06/2022 25/06/2022	£120.00	£170.00	Selection letter from RYA (NI) advises that Daniel has been selected to attend the EURILC4 European Championships (Dziwnow, Polan. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £170.
Emilee Carr	N Ireland	Acrobatic Gymnastics	2022 INTER-REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	SOUTHAMPTON GYMNASTICS	30/04/2022 01/05/2022	£228.00	£150.00	Selection Letter says "congratulations on obtaining a place to represent NI at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton, 30 April - 1 May, but does not state name of applicant. Recommend funding of 2022/23 amount, £150, subject to named letter.
Emma Rayner	Ulster	Hockey	2022 Ulster Masters Interpros (over 45's)	Cork	13/05/2022 15/05/2022	£397.50	£100.00	Selection Letter says Emma has been selected to represent Ulster at the Interprovincial Tournament in Cork, 13-15 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £100.

Erin McConnell	Ireland	Triathlon	2022 Africa Triathlon Cup	Sharm El Sheik, Egypt	27/05/2022 27/05/2022	£1,145.15	£200.00	Selection Letter advises Erin has been selected to compete at the 2022 Africa Triathlon Cup at Sharm El Sheik, Egypt on 27 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £200.
Freya Boyce		Athletics	2022 All Ireland Schools Athletics Championships	Tullamore, Co.Offally, Ireland	04/06/2022 04/06/2022	£126.00	£100.00	Letter from PE Teacher advises Freya will represent Down HS in the 100m at the Irish Schools Athletics Champ, having qualified by winning the Junior Girls Ulster Schools 100m Champ. Propose £100, "Subject to" a GB letter confirming representing Ulster.
Hollie Donnan	N Ireland	Dressage	2022 Pony Club Home International Dressage Competition	Royal Windsor Horse Show	13/05/2022 13/05/2022	£731.00	£150.00	Letter from The Pony Club advises Hollie is representing Northern Ireland at the 2022 Pony Club Dressage Championships at the Royal Windsor Horse Show on 13 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised amount £150.
Julie Fisher	Ulster	Hockey	2022 Hockey Masters Interpros (over 50's)	Garryduff Sports Centre, Cork,	13/05/2022 15/05/2022	£361.20	£100.00	Selection Letter says Julie has been selected to represent Ulster at the Interprovincial Tournament in Cork, 13-15 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £100.

				Location	Start/ End	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Kathy Taylor	Ulster	Hockey	2022 Ulster Masters Interpros (over 50's)	Cork	13/05/2022 15/05/2022	£193.45	£100.00	Selection Letter says Kathy has been selected to represent Ulster at the Interprovincial Tournament in Cork, 13-15 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £100.
Keri Portinga	Ulster	Hockey	2022 Ulster Masters Interpros (over 35's)	Cork	13/05/2022 15/05/2022	£401.20	£100.00	Selection Letter says Keri has been selected to represent Ulster at the Interprovincial Tournament in Cork, 13-15 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £100.
Lucy Kingsley	N Ireland	Gymnastics	2022 INTER-REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	SOUTHAMPTON GYMNASTICS	30/04/2022 01/05/2022	£100.00	£150.00	Selection Letter says "congratulations on obtaining a place to represent NI at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton, 30 April - 1 May, but does not state name of applicant. Recommend funding of 2022/23 amount, £150, subject to named letter.
Maddie Johnson	N Ireland	Gymnastics	2022 ACRO INTER-REGIONALS	SOUTHAMPTON GYMNASTICS	30/04/2022 01/05/2022	£318.92	£150.00	Selection Letter says "congratulations on obtaining a place to represent NI at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton, 30 April - 1 May, but does not state name of applicant. Recommend funding of 2022/23 amount, £150, subject to named letter.

Maxine Taylor	Ulster	Hockey	2022 Ulster Masters Interpros (over 45's)	Cork	13/05/2022 15/05/2022	£391.20	£100.00	Selection Letter says Maxine has been selected to represent Ulster at the Interprovincial Tournament in Cork, 13-15 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £100.
Nicola Ferris	Ulster	Hockey	2022 Ulster Masters Interpros (over 45's)	Cork	13/05/2022 15/05/2022	£391.20	£100.00	Selection Letter says Nicola has been selected to represent Ulster at the Interprovincial Tournament in Cork, 13-15 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £100.
Nicole Simpson	N Ireland	Gymnastics	2022 INTER-REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	SOUTHAMPTON GYMNASTICS	30/04/2022 01/05/2022	£100.00	£150.00	Selection Letter says "congratulations on obtaining a place to represent NI at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton, 30 April - 1 May, but does not state name of applicant. Recommend funding of 2022/23 amount, £150, subject to named letter.
Paul Canning	N Ireland	Outdoor Bowls	2022 Home Nations Deaf Bowls	Dinas Powys Bowling Club, Cardiff, Wales	24/06/2022 27/06/2022	£325.00	£150.00	Selection Letter says Paul has been selected for the Wales Home Nations Championships in Cardiff, 25-26 June 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £150.

Ruby Hall	N Ireland	Acrobatic Gymnastics	2022 INTER- REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	SOUTHAMPTON GYMNASTICS	30/04/2022 01/05/2022	£534.04	£150.00	Selection Letter says "congratulations on obtaining a place to represent NI at the Inter-Regional Championships in Southampton, 30 April - 1 May, but does not state name of applicant. Recommend funding of 2022/23 amount, £150, subject to named letter.
Sandra Canning	N Ireland	Outdoor Bowls	2022 Home Nations Deaf Bowls	Dinas Powys Bowling Club, Cardiff, Wales	24/06/2022 27/06/2022	£325.00	£150.00	Selection Letter says Sandra has been selected for the Wales Home Nations Championships in Cardiff, 25-26 June 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £150.
Suzanne Hart	Ulster	Hockey	2022 Masters Hockey Interpros Tournament (over 45's)	Cork, Ireland	13/05/2022 15/05/2022	£660.70	£100.00	Selection Letter says Suzanne has been selected to represent Ulster at the Interprovincial Tournament in Cork, 13-15 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £100.
Valerie McKibben	Ulster	Hockey	2022 Ulster Masters Interpros (over 45's)	Garryduff Sports Centre, Cork	13/05/2022 15/05/2022	£391.20	£100.00	Selection Letter says Valerie has been selected to represent Ulster at the Interprovincial Tournament in Cork, 13-15 May 2022. Recommend funding of revised 2022/23 amount, £100, "subject to" signed Declaration.

Location

Start/
End

Requested

Proposed

Notes

Total Proposed

£3,730.00

Unsuccessful Applications Report

June

2022/23

15 June 2022

129

Applicant	Application	Request	Evidence Required	Explanation
Ards Rugby Football Club	Anniversary	Ards Rugby Football Club submitted an application for their 50 Years at Hamilton Park Gala Ball to be held on 22 April 2022. The application was submitted on 4 May 2022. The Club requested £750.	Our Guidelines state, "The Club request for a grant should be made three months prior to the anniversary month being commemorated."	The club failed to meet the following criteria - the application was not submitted three months in advance of the event.
Kestrel Trampoline and DMT	Travel / Acc	Kestrel Trampoline and DMT Club submitted a Club Travel/Accommodation Application for the 2022 Hans Anderson International Games in Odense, Denmark in August 2022.	The guidelines state that "Sports Clubs must be currently affiliated to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum. Please note, there is a three month wait before newly affiliated members can apply for funding."	The Club's application was received on 29 May 2022, and the Club has only Affiliated from 1 April 2022. The Club have not affiliated to the Forum since 2016/2017. Recommend re-assessing the application on 7 July, when the Club will have been affiliated for over 3 months.

Applicant	Application	Request	Evidence Required	Explanation
Jordan Booyesen	Travel / Acc	Jordan applied for a Individual Travel/Accommodation Grant on 26 May 2022. Application advises Jordan will be representing the South Africa National Team at the World Championships Trail in June.	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.	Jordan failed to meet the following criteria - he is not a resident of the Borough and he did not submit a selection letter. Recommend Jordan applies for a Grant from his local Council.

Unclassified

131

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing
Date of Meeting	14 September 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	17 June 2022
File Reference	HER 06/CR 07/22
Legislation	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below.
Subject	Blue Plaque in Honour of Viscount Castlereagh
Attachments	Location of Blue Plaque

As part of a series of events to mark the bicentenary of the death of Viscount Castlereagh (1769-1822), the Ulster History Circle has 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 is located on the corner of Castle Place, adjacent to The Old Cross and is now three separate shops; Equip kitchen shop an antiques shop and the NFU. The authenticity of the site has been confirmed by the Mount Stewart Estate however both the Estate and The Ulster History Circle are reticent to locate the Blue Plaque there as there are multiple owners and it will prove complicated to seek permissions. They also feel the standard of upkeep of the properties is not appropriate and it is not a very accessible site for viewing due to the busy road and corner location.

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

Unclassified

132

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

The agreed wording is as follows:

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

It is proposed that the Blue Plaque will 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 is £1,000 and this will be covered by the budget allocated to the programme of events to mark the Bicentenary.

The Blue Plaque will measure 60cm in diameter and it is recommended that it is 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 will be required, and Officer's will apply to the Planning Service for this.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Appendix 1

Proposed location of the Blue Plaque in honour of Viscount Castlereagh:





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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	27 July 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	8 July 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 – JULY 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.

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
						(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 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

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
							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.

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
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	TBC (awaiting EQIA)	EQIA to be carried out.
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	

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
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	Further report to follow (TBC).
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							
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
31.12.21	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	Response from DfI Minister reported to May PC and recommendation adopted by June Council.	Further letter to be issued to Minister and Chief Planner, opposing the Department's approach.
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)
19.1.22	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Funding	Councillor Cooper and Alderman Menagh	Council February 22	Corporate Committee – March 22	Agreed	TBC	Letters sent to NIO and Ministers. NIO have advised DCMS will reply. Response to

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
							NOM noted at June CSC.
20.01.22	Stand4Trees and Tree Protection Orders	Councillors Kendall and McKee	Council February 22	Planning Committee – March 22	Agreed	Planning Committee Aug 2022	Awaiting legal advice to be brought back to Council.
1.02.22	Park and Ride at Bangor Sportsplex	Councillor Chambers and Alderman Smith	Council February 22	Corporate Committee – March 22	Agreed	TBC	Letter sent to Translink. Reply rec'd Response to NOM noted at June CSC.
09.03.22	Resurfacing Bridge Road South, Helen's Bay	Councillor Greer, Johnson, Kendall & McRandal	Council – March 22	Corporate Services Committee – April 22	Agreed	TBC	Letter issued. Reply rec'd and Response to NOM noted at June CSC.
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 at Sept/Oct R&D	HOR to: 1. Draft letter to Minister;

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
							2. Outline to RDC, a united engagement campaign with other Councils, SOLACE & NILGA, to secure Ministerial support.
12.04.22	Comber TT Soapbox Race	Councillor P Smith, Councillor Cooper and Councillor Cummings	Council – April 2022	Community & Wellbeing Committee	Amended (to be ratified by April Council)		Report to be brought back. Response to NOM noted at June CSC.
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	

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
19.04.22	Light up our council buildings in green (the colour of the Samaritans)	Councillors Dunlop & McKimm	Council – April 2022	Corporate Committee May 2022	Agreed (to be ratified by April Council)		NOM 163 Final minute to Admin for follow up.
10.05.22	Discussions with EA re redevelopment of the play area fronting Victoria Primary School as a potential Peace Plus project for Ballywalter	Councillors Adair and Edmund	Council – May 2022	Community and Wellbeing June 2022	Agreed (to be ratified at June Council)	TBC	
17.05.22	2028 Centenary of the internationally renowned Ards TT races. Asking Council how best to commemorate this important sporting anniversary.	Alderman McIlveen and Councillor Kennedy	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	Alderman McDowell, Councillors Cummings	Council – May 2022	Heard at Council Meeting May 2022	That all meetings take place onsite/hybr		

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
	Ards Chambers. To be in place onsite for 1 September 2022.	T Smith, Greer McRandal Walker & McKee			id from 1 September 2022 or as soon as possible after that date.		
19.05.2022	Business case for redesign of the parallel sports pitches and facilities at Park Way, Comber	Councillors Cummings and Johnson	Council – June 2022	Referred to Community and 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	Councillor Greer and Councillor McKee	Council – June 2022	Referred to Corporate Services Committee – Sept 2022			On draft CSC September agenda.

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
	available to anyone undergoing IVF.						
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			
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			
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			