

Unclassified

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ITEM 5**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	17 August 2023
File Reference	160094
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ards and Bangor Business Awards
Attachments	

Background

Following the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, 2022 saw the return of the Bangor Business Awards which was welcomed by the business community. Ards Business Awards, due to unforeseen circumstances and resources were unable to be held.

Detail

This year both Ards and Bangor Chambers of Commerce will revive their respective annual event. The Bangor Business Awards launched on 25 August 2023 and the Bangor Awards ceremony will take place on Thursday 12 October at Clandeboye Lodge Hotel, Bangor. Ards Chamber has yet to finalise its plans, but it is also anticipated that the event will take place in Autumn 2023. Further updates on the Ards Business Awards will be brought to Council when available.

Members will be aware that Council officers have been working closely with the Chambers of Commerce in the city and each of the towns to engage, develop the business capacity of the chambers, and to support their efforts to revitalise and promote local businesses.

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Within the business plans submitted to the Regeneration Unit and Council each year, each Chamber includes within the action plan a Business Awards event to celebrate the work, resilience and successes of local businesses in the area.

Due to budget constraints this year, it is proposed that Council will be a supporting sponsor of the Bangor Business Awards at a cost of £2,500; this is possible due to underspend in another area. As part of the package, five complimentary tickets are being made available to Council. The Mayor and the Chief Executive will be invited separately as guests of the Chamber.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves budgetary support for the Awards and nominates a maximum of five Members to attend the Bangor Business Awards on 12 October 2023.

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ITEM 6**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	09 August 2023
File Reference	TD100
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	Tourism NI Market Led Product Development Programme Delivery Review
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Summary TNI Market Led Programme 2023 - ticketed events

Background

In December 2022, the Tourism Service Unit was successful in securing £27,130 from the Tourism NI Market-Led Product Development Programme 2023. The 100% grant was to deliver pilot tourism projects in ANDBC, with the aim of the programme to ascertain if new 'tourism offerings' could form part of the businesses or organisations' tourism portfolios, on a longer-term basis.

The Council's programme was entitled "Spring into AND" and consisted of a series of unique events curated and operated, during the month of March 2023, by borough tourism providers celebrating the spring season's awakening. Pilot tours, workshops, open days and experiences, incorporating locally produced food and drink, were presented under two themes, "Awakening the Walled Gardens" and "Sustainable Spring".

Not Applicable

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Awakening the Walled Gardens

This programme celebrated the borough's varied walled gardens blooming into life at spring, with a series of five events promoted within this theme. Participants (non-council) included Mount Stewart House and Gardens, Ballywalter Estate, The Walled Garden Helen's Bay and Clandeboye Estate.

Bangor Castle Walled Garden was an event jointly delivered by the Council's Tourism and Parks services. It celebrated the beginning of spring with two days of free family events (12noon-4pm each day) and a ticketed BBQ on the Saturday evening. A programme of live music, tours, garden games, crafts, horticulture activities and other free fun activities for children were provided. The weekend was a success with over 4000 people attending, many who had never been to the garden before and were from outside the borough. Guests at the evening BBQ enjoyed local food from local providers, 'The Griddle' (Angus farm shop), Greyabbey and Lightfoot Kitchen, Bangor. Guests had a choice of a meat or vegan main accompanied by locally produced cordial from Papas Mineral Company. Live music accompanied the meal.

Sustainable Spring

A collection of four sustainable experiences was delivered by members of the "AND Sustainable Giants" – Green Tourism Network. They covered a range of themes including food, activity and craft related activity (See Appendix 1).

Outcomes

In addition to the footfall that was delivered into the borough during the shoulder season, 78% of all ticketed events were sold generating circa £7800 sales. The programme has also successfully enabled the following;

- Bangor Castle Walled Garden – the "Chilli Fest" weekend in September will expand upon last year's event by incorporating activity trialled over the March 23 weekend. This will include the evening BBQ and use of equipment purchased from the Fund.
- The Walled Garden Helen's Bay – the food event will be repeated in March 2024. Equipment purchased via the Fund is being used regularly for other experiences. The Willow Making has been particularly successful with sessions selling out.
- Strangford Lough Activity Centre - the E-bikes tour developed via the Fund is now part of its normal experience portfolio.
- Tracey's Farmhouse Kitchen – equipment purchased has enabled repeat sessions and adapted experiences to become part of the day-to-day product.
- Clandeboye Estate – there is a plan to develop its product offering by operating the tours as part of a longer-term open day's programme.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Appendix 1

Summary TNI Market Led Programme 2023 Tickets

Awakening the Walled Gardens

1. Edith, Lady Londonderry's Life, Love and Legacy: Rediscovering the Gardens at Mount Stewart. Tickets available: 20, Sold: 20 @ £65pp.
2. Re-imagining the Walled Garden, Ballywalter Park. Tickets available: 24, Tickets Sold: 12 @ £55pp.
3. Spring forward into Summer with Lunch in The Walled Garden Helen's Bay.
Tickets available: 40, Tickets Sold: 24 @ £50pp.
4. Clondeboyne Estate - Asian House and Garden Tour. Tickets available: 20 x 2 sessions, Tickets Sold: 20 x 2 @ £35pp.
5. Awakening the Walled Garden- Evening Barbeque - Bangor Castle Walled Garden. Tickets available: 40 Tickets Sold: 29 @ £20pp.

Sustainable Spring

1. Sustainable Willow Obelisk Making, The Walled Garden Helen's Bay. Tickets available: 14 Tickets Sold: 14 @ £70pp.
2. Bangor Brunch Round the World Recovery Tour, Hit the Road Tours. Tickets available: 14 Tickets Sold: 14 @ £65pp.
3. E- Bike Tours, Strangford Lough activity Centre. Tickets available: 12 Tickets Sold: 7 @ £62.50pp.
4. Farmhouse Feast, Tracey's Farmhouse Kitchen. Tickets available: 10 Tickets Sold: 5 @ £45x3 adult and £25 x2 child.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	16 August 2023
File Reference	170871
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	Visit Belfast 12 Month Overview 2022/23
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Overview Visual Examples of Visit Belfast 2022/23 Service Level Agreement Activity

Background

Ards and North Down BC has an annual partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place with Visit Belfast (VB).

The purpose of the partnership is twofold:

- to facilitate communication between the partnership councils (Ards and North Down, Lisburn and Castlereagh, Belfast) with regards to tourism development; and
- for VB to create effective marketing communications and visitor servicing platforms that are efficient and represent value for money for each of the council areas.

An annual review report is provided at the end of each financial year with detailed breakdown of activity.

The attached Appendix 1 is an overview of visual examples of the 2022/23 SLA.

Not Applicable

Since 2015, Ards and North Down Borough Council and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council have remained as local authority partners gaining year on year from dedicated promotional focus under the banner Belfast Plus. The cost per annum for local authority membership has remained at £30,000 since 2015.

The Regional Tourism Partnership (RTP) ensures dedicated promotion for Ards and North Down, promoting key tourism experiences, things to do, itineraries, and events reaching a large and engaged visitor audience. A high level of coverage for AND has been maintained throughout the 2022/23 SLA period, across a wide mix of digital and traditional promotional channels.

Key benefits of the SLA

The SLA ensures prominent 24/7 year-round promotion, showcasing campaigns and Borough tourism activity, combined with strong visitor servicing support across all the main international visitor arrival points. These include the Visit Belfast Welcome Centre (VBWC) opposite Belfast City Hall and both main NI airports. It enables ANDBC tourism to leverage the reach and visibility of AND to a much wider audience than Council resource alone could achieve.

VB works in collaboration with the ANDBC Tourism team to amplify the promotion of AND as an appealing tourism destination through the strong reach of its robust trade network and large consumer databases, promotional channels, and visitor welcome touch points. It ensures that the Borough is promoted as part of the Belfast region under the Belfast Plus brand (along with Lisburn Castlereagh) which is a key strength for the continued promotion as an appealing visitor destination.

It is worth noting that as one of only two local authority members in this partnership (other than Belfast City Council) AND is at a significant advantage in presenting the Borough to these visitors. The partnership is particularly critical as the country continues through post covid recovery over the coming years, as it enables ANDBC to leverage Visit Belfast's strong position with tourism trade and consumer audiences, and to showcase the Borough's key strength of offering relaxing short breaks all within an hour of Belfast.

Summary of SLA 2022/23 activity

Digital - Web, Social, Email Marketing

AND capitalised on a significant upscaling of presence across VB's digital channels. Content was featured on belfastplus.com dedicated web pages including experiences and What's On information.

visitbelfast.com included 20 Ards and North Down location listings and 51 events. The Borough was also prominently featured in 44 blogs (an increase of 10% on prior year) including staycation guides, day trips, virtual visits, things to do, road trips, walks, and foodie inspiration during the period. Visit Belfast's web traffic is 2 million visits per annum.

41k Consumer database mail marketing reach

Not Applicable

AND is strongly presented in Visit Belfast's What's On e-zines with over 175k emails sent to 41k subscribers with 26 Ards and North Down features (up 84% on prior period).

Leveraging VB's large social audience reach

AND was promoted to VB's large social media audience (combined following over 422k, 30 million+ impressions/ opportunities to see per year, and 2.8 million+ engagements / actions per year) throughout the SLA period.

VB region promotional literature

AND was featured in four print publications Summer '22, Autumn/ Winter '22, Spring '23, and Student edition, as well as in a Belfast region map with a combined print run of 110k. Literature was promoted with PR and distributed digitally via social media and email promotion. VB's main digital Visitor Guide also includes a city and region approach featuring AND. Plus, an additional 31k pieces of literature featuring AND racked across Visit Belfast sites throughout the SLA Period (up 20% on prior year).

Promotional presence in Visit Belfast Welcome Centre (VBWC) and NI airports

AND was featured on 16-screen video wall and information desks and prominently on self-serve screens. AND tourism campaigns were promoted throughout the year, plus eight weeks of promotion for six campaigns were featured on the VBWC Event Island.

AND was also prominently displayed in a Belfast Plus promotional campaign with advertising on a large back-lit screen at the arrivals area in George Best Belfast City Airport, and in welcome areas in both NI airports and the Belfast Cruise Hub.

Industry engagement

- The Council's Tourism Development team presented the Borough's tourism offering at quarterly industry briefing events and was featured in 40 concierge trade e-zines.
- A familiarisation trip to Ards and North Down in March 2023 was attended by 28 industry tourism delegates with 100% of survey respondents confirming that they would recommend the trip.
- VB team presented Ards and North Down as an RTP partner at 28 key industry events in the UK, RoI, and Germany, and Council's Tourism Development team attended Holiday World Dublin January 23 with the Visit Belfast Team.

Visitor Servicing

The SLA ensures the provision of a daily gateway visitor information and travel advisory services available seven days a week via telephone, email web and social media enquiry, and in person in VBWC. VB handled 578k enquiries across all platforms, up 134% on prior period, reflecting rebounding travel during the Covid recovery period. 18k enquiries about the Borough were handled across welcome centres and visitor entry points during the SLA period (up 12% on prior period).

Value of Investment - Membership cost and other contributions

A review of the annual membership agreement (£30,000) at the end of the last annual membership period (end March 2023) established that if the Council were to purchase the promotional benefits independently from VB Marketing Opportunities (as opposed to through this SLA), the total annual cost would be £60,000 - £65,000. The reach of

Not Applicable

VB's significantly larger visitor audience (through its visitor centres and all other channels) is not something the Council can match alone, at this time, through alternative marketing investment and trade programmes. The exposure gained through this ongoing partnership with VB is critically important during the post-covid recovery to ensure strong visibility of the Borough to an international audience.

In addition to the RTP membership, the Tourism Service Unit secures primary promotional space in the Belfast Welcome Centre at a cost of £6,000 per annum. This is a destination display desk with dedicated racking, headline imagery and a profile of AND. When these sums are combined with the annual membership, the Council is leveraging incremental promotional activity valued at least £30,000 per annum.

Conclusion

Throughout 2022/23 Visit Belfast has proven to be a critical tourism partner for ANDBC, providing vital visitor servicing support and year-round enhanced promotional exposure for the Borough's tourism offering. VB's audience size is growing, the level of promotion for Ards and North Down BC is increasing across digital and traditional channels, plus the number of AND enquiries handled by VB has significantly increased.

Through the successful delivery of this SLA, ANDBC capitalises on a full range of benefits to a wider consumer and trade audience which the Council could not achieve on its own. The value of benefit attributed to the current membership is higher than the contribution, presenting good value for money. The strong partnership approach ensures that AND destination campaigns and event programme promotion reach a large international visitor audience, which is critical to continue to keep AND 'front of mind' as international competition for visitors continues to increase during pandemic recovery.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the above report, and further approves the renewal of the Visit Belfast Regional Tourism Partnership Service Level Agreement for 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years at £30,000 per annum, subject to the Rates setting process.

08.08.2023



Ards and
North Down
Borough Council

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Appendix 1

Visit Belfast Promotional Activity

Overview Visual Examples Summary 2022/23 SLA



Visit Belfast AND SLA

Key Digital Channels Promotional Activity

Ards and North Down Borough Council
www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

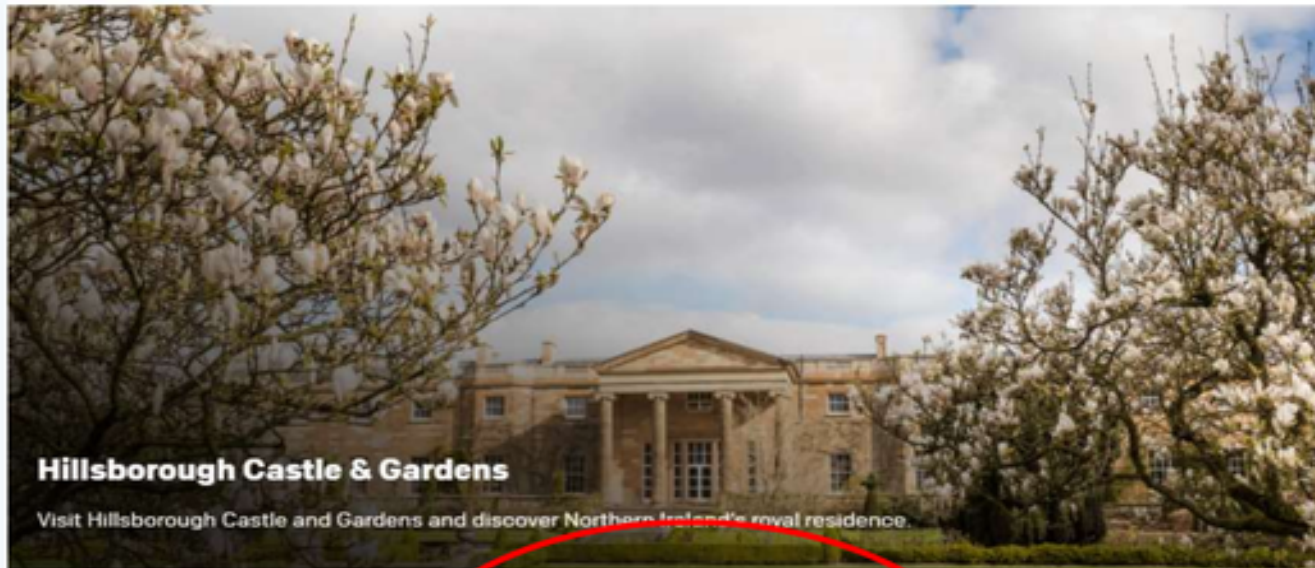


Web Dedicated City Region Promotion

AND tourism featured **51** What's on events and **20** product listings

2million visits per annum on Visit Belfast Site

Recommended in Belfast Plus



Ards and North Down Borough Council
www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk



Web Dedicated City Region Promotion

AND tourism featured in **44** blogs and dedicated Ards and North Down itineraries



Discover and Explore Belfast Plus

Discover country parks, magnificent estates and historic landmarks just minutes from Belfast. Uncover fascinating tales and stories at these top attractions.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Ards & North Down Experiences

Take in the natural beauty of Ards and North Down's countryside, encounter water's edge wonders, fun activities, beautiful walks and new experiences.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Day Trip to North Down, Strangford Lough & Ards Peninsula

Enjoy peaceful walks along the coast, experience great days out with the family and uncover fascinating tales from the area's unique history and heritage.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Things to do this May Bank Holiday Weekend

Make the most of the bank holiday, there is loads to do in Belfast this Bank Holiday weekend!

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Family Fun – Belfast Plus

Discover family fun attractions in Lisburn and Castlereagh and Ards and North Down, just minutes from Belfast. See our top suggestions for a fun-filled day out.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

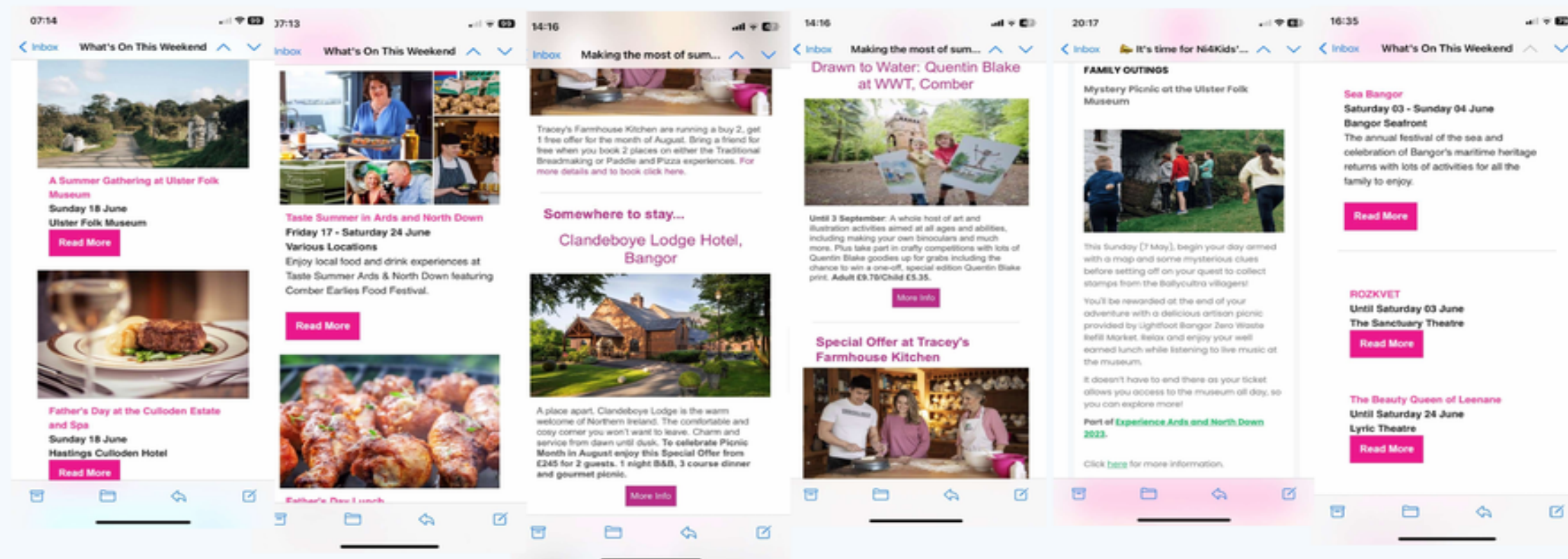
Ards and North Down Borough Council

www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk



Visit Belfast E-zines Featuring AND

- >175k emails sent to 41k subscribers including 26 Ards and North Down features
- Included in all relevant what's on this weekend e-zines throughout the SLA period
- Included in weekly concierge e-zines (as appropriate)



Ards and North Down Borough Council

www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk



Visit Belfast Social Media Content Featuring AND

- Large social media audience reach (Facebook **124k**, Twitter **90k**, Instagram **62k** fwr)
- Regular social media posts
- An Ards and North Down social media competition ran 16-30 June 2022, across Facebook and Instagram and featured in e-zines
3.7k entries, **233k** impressions (opportunities to see) and **34k** engagements





Visit Belfast AND SLA

Key Traditional Channels of Marketing Activity

Ards and North Down Borough Council
www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk



Visit Belfast City and Region Guide

110k print run, digital, social media and email promotion

4 publications - Summer '22, Autumn/ Winter '22, Spring '23 Student, and map editions





Visit Belfast AND SLA

Ards and North Down year-round promotion at key visitor touchpoints including Belfast City Centre Welcome Centre and airports.

Key campaigns gain prominent promotion

Ards and North Down Borough Council
www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk



Visit Belfast – City Centre Welcome Visitor Centre

All AND campaigns prominently promoted including window screens, promotional plinth, welcome centre digital screens

Key AND campaigns promoted:-

- Experience Ards and North Down– May 2022
- Sea Bangor – May/June 2022
- Taste Summer Festival – June/July 2022
- Taste Autumn Festival – September 2022
- Autumn Getaway – October 2022
- Moments to Remember – March 2023



Ards and North Down Borough Council
www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk



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Visit Belfast – City Centre Welcome Visitor Centre

All Taste AND Local Food and Drink campaigns prominently promoted
 Includes window screens, promotional plinth, welcome centre digital screens



Ards and North Down Borough Council
www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk



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Visit Belfast – George Best City Airport

Prominent digital screen advertising RTP partners at arrivals area





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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	15 August 2023
File Reference	TO/EG68
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A - if approved, screening will be initiated
Subject	Tourism Growth Events Fund and Bid For Events Fund
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Event Category Definitions

Background

In November 2020, Council approved the Borough Events Strategic Direction 2021-2026 (BESD). The BESD outlines a vision for a more sustainable, successful, and impactful portfolio of events that deliver a range of cultural, social and economic outcomes for the Borough. Two requirements to make this happen were recommended within the BESD as follows.

1. The Council reviews and develops actions across four key strategic areas:
 - Events Delivery
 - Capacity Development
 - **Grant Schemes and Funding Models**
 - **Event Bid for Model** and
2. the Council rebalances its financial resource for event delivery and event industry support to underpin current growth and success and attract new ideas and organisers.

To date, the Council has developed a new AND Events and Festivals Fund (currently in Year 1 of implementation and under review), completed two cohorts of OCN Level

2 in Event Management with SERC, developed an online Events Toolkit for event organisers (online resource) and set up the Events Festivals Forum which is used to facilitate shared learning and bespoke training for local event organisers (see Support Services below). It has also funded one event via a limited 'Bid For' Event Fund in 2021 and 2022.

Below is outlined an Events Growth Multi-Year Fund which aims to deliver on a key recommendation within the BESD, which is to develop an event support programme of sustained funding and closer partnership working. This will help the Borough develop its range of Growth/Signature events (four by Year 3 of the action plan and six by the end of the plan). The key output being that, with the ability to support Growth and Signature events /festivals through longer funding arrangements (proposed multi-annual funding – over 3 years), and assistance with business planning, the Council will be able to link each event's key performance indicators to our strategic outcomes. Once the Growth Event Fund (GEF) is developed the Council will be further along in developing a 3-tier model of capacity development.

'Bid For' Event Fund

It is also proposed that a 'Bid For' Event Fund is reestablished in 2024.

An approach has recently been made to Council by Ballyholme Yacht Club, for general assistance and support in delivering an international event. The Club has secured the European International Laser Class Association "ILCA" Youth Europeans from 27 July to 3 August 2024. This is an international youth event for 10–16 year-olds, attracting approximately 300 competitors. It is anticipated that 85% will be from outside NI and over 50% outside Great Britain and Ireland. Support numbers are estimated at 500-600 people. Once officers receive all support information, a further report will be brought back to Council for approval of any financial support. The 'Bid For' Event Fund will be allocated on a 'need basis' centred on the provision of a Business Case by the event organiser, which will be assessed by a panel of council officers.

Aim of the Growth Event Fund (GEF)

The aim is to support large events or festivals, which can best meet the strategic requirements of Council to increase the number of events 'distinctive to place' within the Borough, by providing a grant for Year 1 and committing to a maximum of two further years to encourage events to become Growth or Signature events. See Appendix 1 for Event Definition Categories.

Objectives of an AND Growth Event

1. Grow our local economy
 - Increase overnight stays and visitor spend within the Borough
 - Increase local attendee spend
 - Increase investment in local businesses
2. Grow our visitor experience and destination
 - Deliver stand out sustainable destination event/s
 - Increase awareness of AND by marketing nationally and internationally
3. Grow the potential of our local community and place

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- Support and invest in local people
- Support and invest in local businesses, venues and assets

Funding and Level of Grant Award

Applicants may submit an application for either a two year or three year 'rolling' grant i.e. a maximum of three years, subject to the annual Rate setting process. This would be further subject to an annual evaluation and assessment of continuing need going forward. The applicant would also have the right to declare a withdrawal from any requirement for funding beyond the first year.

The level of grant awarded would be subject to a Panel assessment of funding 'need' based on the provision of a business case application process and subject to the level of annual Council approved budget. Grants would be available from £15,000 upwards.

The number and size of grants approved in Year 1 of the Fund (2024) will determine whether the GEF will reopen in Years 2 or 3.

Budget

To ensure that the Fund can deliver the aim and strategic objectives of the proposed GEF, officers are recommending a budget of £150,000 for 2024, with the same budget planned for 2025 and 2026, subject to the relevant annual Rates setting process. Members should be aware that this represents an increase in the budget from £105k.

GEF Event Criteria

To apply to the Fund applicants must be able to demonstrate how the event meets the criteria as set out below:

- Provide evidence of event growth to date and/or a robust plan for growth over a number of areas i.e. increase in ability to bring additional revenue into local economy, social sustainability (use of volunteers with availability of training and an increase in local business partnerships), increase in attendees (includes participants), increase in duration of event and/or venues used.
- provide evidence of the event previously bringing at least 20% of attendees (and/or participants) from out-of-the Borough, and an evidence-based plan to continue to grow this percentage OR a structured business plan detailing how the event will attract at least this percentage.
- provide a detailed marketing plan which includes Out of Borough (OoB) promotion, and a plan to increase this going forward in Year 2 and 3 (as applicable)
- Must take place within the Borough and showcase its assets
- Must take place over a maximum of an 8-week period and have a distinctive theme
- Minimum eligible expenditure threshold £50,000

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- Must demonstrate need for Council's financial support by showing match funding of a minimum of 50% (this can be made up from own funds or other sources of funds/sponsorship/grants)

Who can apply to the GEF

Applications may be accepted from organisations with charitable status, not-for-profit organisations including constituted groups and Limited Companies (subject to being able to demonstrate that they are not able to draw or share out profits).

Any surplus accrued in the first or second year of the grant award may, by agreement with the Council, be rolled over to support the event the following year. A limit of 10% of the total event budget will apply but must be declared as income within the event budget in the second or third-year review. Each event will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

Applications will be accepted for two or three years support.

Timeline

Currently the AND Events and Festival Fund is advertised annually in October/November, to allow event organisers sufficient lead-in time to organise their events/festivals the following year. The formal awards are made once the budget is confirmed after the Rates setting process. It is proposed that the GEF will run alongside the current AND Events and Festivals Fund.

Support Services

In addition to financial support from the GEF, the Tourism Events Team will offer the following additional support alongside any GEF award:

- A dedicated Case Officer who will offer advice on completion of risk assessments, apply for use of Council land (if applicable) licencing etc., and provide additional advice on how to run and promote the respective event.
- Event Management Toolkit to ensure all event organisers are equipped with skills/knowledge to run their event safely, the Council has established an online toolkit, which is a valuable resource for all event organisers, irrespective of the size of the event.
- Festivals Forum - Following discussions with local festival organisers, officers have established an AND Events and Festivals Forum specifically for event organisers and venues that host events. It meets up to four times annually, featuring guest speakers, case studies, training and practical advice. Each event organiser who is successful in receiving funding will be invited to become a member of the Festivals Forum.

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Ongoing advice and assistance will be available for event organisers to help run their events safely and for those who run events that have the capacity to grow, in line with the recommendations of the BESD.

The first year of implementation of the GEF will be monitored by the Events Manager and the Fund will be subject to review.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the following:

- a) The Growth Event Fund application process and criteria as outlined in the report.
- b) A budget of £150,000 for the Growth Event Fund subject to the annual Rates setting process.
- c) The re-establishment of the 'Bid For' Event Fund and associated budget of £25,000 for 2024/25 subject to the Rates setting process.

Appendix 1

Event Category Definitions

MEGA EVENTS

Peripatetic events with global reach
Major bidding effort
High level of government resource and support
Come with broadcast partners
E.g. Olympics, World Cup

FESTIVALS & EVENTS INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION

MAJOR EVENTS

Peripatetic and one off events
May be required to be bid for
Rights often owned by a third party
International reach through media coverage
Significant national (out of area) and some international attendance
Significant economic impact and potential for legacy
Partnership key
EG. Grand Depart Tour de France, MTV awards, World Irish Dance Championships

GROWTH EVENTS

Recurring events;
Regional or sectorial events or new local events ambitious to become signature events
Distinctive to the location
Grow the capacity of a place and visitor experience
National and regional reach through media coverage
Potential to attract visitors
Good economic, social and cultural impact – sometimes realised over time
EG. Georgian Festival Armagh, Great South Run, White Night, mixed arts festivals

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Recurring events – annually or periodically
Usually home produced or commissioned
Enhanced sense of place and visitor experience
International and national reach through media coverage
Local, regional and international attendance
Economic, social and cultural impact
Often require public funding
Mostly cultural events, sometimes sporting
EG. Edinburgh Festivals, London Marathon, Lumiere

LOCAL EVENTS

Recurring events; occasionally one-off
General interest but aimed mainly at residents
Citywide interest
Local media coverage
Local attendance
Limited economic impact, often significant social impact
EG. Civic Events, Neighbourhood events, 5-10k runs

Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	08 August 2023
File Reference	141973
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Project 24 - Infrastructure
Attachments	None

1. Background

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

The project ran successfully for ten years, opening in April 2013 and closing in March 2023. In anticipation of the Queen's Parade development commencing, the Department for Communities took back control of the site on Thursday 15 June 2023.

2. Project 24 Infrastructure

A condition of the Contract for Funding for the project was to ensure the infrastructure within Project 24 was reclaimable and where possible to ensure its future use for regeneration and/or economic benefit.

Not Applicable

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The infrastructure that is deemed reclaimable consists of:

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

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

As members will be aware a number of services within the Council expressed an interest in reusing the pods and hub, however Council in June 2023 requested that officers explore with DfC the option to dispose of the pods and hub to external bodies, with the matter coming back to Place and Prosperity Committee for further consideration.

3. Potential future external use

Council has received a significant number of requests from a range of organisations who are interested in obtaining one of more of the pods. DfC has now confirmed they are happy for the Council to dispose of the pods to external bodies.

3.1 The Proposal

In line with the Council decision it is proposed to put out an Expression of Interest to potential end users as per the process outlined below. It should be noted that no budget is currently available within Council to transport the pods/hub to a new location or to cover planning and/or installation costs. It is therefore assumed that the new owner/s of the pods/hub will cover these costs. However, it is assumed that Council will not charge for the actual pods/hub.

It is proposed that the Council:

1. Promotes the opportunity via the Council's communication platforms including, emails to our database of groups/businesses, via the Council website, and via the CAG/TAGs and Village Groups. An advert will also be placed in the local press.
2. Offer up to 2 shipping containers per organisation.
3. Interested parties will be asked to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) which will assess applications based on the following criteria:
 - a) The proposed project demonstrates a regeneration and/or economic benefit (e.g., enhance footfall, support evening economy, support employment etc)
 - b) The proposed project is located within the Ards and North Down Borough.
 - c) The applicant has sufficient funds or identified a funding stream to cover all costs of transportation, statutory approvals and/or installation.
 - d) The applicant will provide the Council with all statutory approvals prior to the pods being made available.

Not Applicable

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It is proposed the Expression of Interest will be open from Monday 02 October 2023 for a period of 4 weeks.

An assessment panel consisting of regeneration and community development officers will assess the Expression of Interests received. If the Council agrees to proceed with this proposal, a report will be brought back to Council detailing the outcome of the Expression of Interest exercise and a recommendation for allocation of the 12 shipping containers and hub. The report will also include the outcome of the internal Expression of Interest exercise for members consideration as well.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council agrees to the proposal to offer the 12 shipping containers and the hub for external use as per the process outlined within the report.

Unclassified

32

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	07 August 2023
File Reference	RDP236
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Small Settlements Regeneration Programme - Greyabbey Community Park and Viewing Platform
Attachments	Appendix One - Original scheme proposals

Following on from the report that was presented to Council in June, the Council has now received a reply from Mr H Montgomery who owns the land that the proposed paths and viewing platform was to be developed on. He has advised that he has spoken to a member of the community who believed there was no community support for this project and therefore has not given permission for the viewing platform to be created. He has also put legal restrictions on the paths through his land, and these do not now meet the funding requirements.

Officers have responded to Mr Montgomery outlining the community consultation responses. Although during the public meeting a number of people spoke against the proposals, many others confirmed that they were in support of the scheme. Several attendees also spoke to officers after the meeting and confirmed that they were in support of the scheme but felt that they couldn't voice their support during the meeting due to the nature of same. Mr Montgomery was also advised of the findings from the survey which demonstrated support for the scheme. For example specific questions were asked on the proposals through Mr Montgomery's

Not Applicable

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land. A question was asked if there was support for the walkway through the wooded area and 63 people responded with 63% supporting this. In relation to creating the viewing area, 64 responded with 56% supported this.

In light of the response from Mr Montgomery, it is now proposed that the Council proceeds with the elements of the scheme located on its land. If this is agreed, the plans will be reviewed and there may be an opportunity to enhance the suggested proposals. A plan showing the original proposed scheme is attached at Appendix One.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council agrees to proceed with the elements of the scheme located on Council land as outlined above.

Greyabbey

Environmental Improvements

Greyabbey

The Council owned green site to the rear of Greyabbey Village Hall is well used by dog walkers and leads to a dense planted area at the far side of the site owned by The National Trust. This densely planted area leads to stunning views that look out across Strangford Lough to the Mourne Mountains, and hosts a number of wildlife species. There is a shared existing lane that is used as a path to access this area. We propose to build a new path that meanders across the green site, through trees and through existing woodland. Keeping the design as natural and informal as possible, we propose to create a widened footpath at the far end of the site, through the woodland planting, to allow users to enjoy the views.

The site recently had some orchard trees planted, and there are a number of more mature trees, wilder in character, that are a focal point of the site. We propose to create a low level nature play area within these trees, with the addition of picnic benches situated alongside the pathway.

Toilet Block



Willow screen



Potential projects

- ① **Enhanced entrance**
(Clean entrance wall and plant shrub planting in front of wall. Proposed hedge along fence an LHS.)
- ② **Proposed pathway through green space**
(Self binding gravel with timber edging)
- ③ **Proposed planting**
(Proposed structure woodland planting to open space and boundary with right of way access lane.)
- ④ **Shrub planting**
(Shrub planting mix)
- ⑤ **Wildflower Planting**
(Wildflower mix)
- ⑥ **Natural play area**
(Informal natural play on bark mulch)
- ⑦ **Picnic area**
(3 x picnic benches)
- ⑧ **Proposed orchard pathway**
(Mown grass pathway)
- ⑨ **Proposed woodland pathway**
(Self binding gravel with felled timber edging)
- ⑩ **Proposed screen planting**
(Woodland planting)
- ⑪ **Lookout point**
(Widened path and cleared area for viewing. Informal felled timber logs)
- ⑫ **Willow screening**
(Decorative lattice screen in winter and foliage in summer)
- ⑬ **Toilet block**
(Installation of prefabricated 5m x 3m unisex toilet block)

Natural Play



Stepping stone stilts

Balance beam



Play den



Glockenspiel

Stepping stone

Concept proposals

Unclassified

35

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	17 August 2023
File Reference	REG12
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Urban Regeneration Projects
Attachments	None

Background

As members will be aware as part of the rate setting process the Urban Regeneration Section successfully bid for £100K to work up projects to a point where the Council could potentially take advantage of future funding opportunities from April 2024. This includes professional fees, design work and planning applications where appropriate.

Update

As the town/city masterplans have been reviewed a number of common themes have emerged. These are detailed at 1 & 2 below, with further proposals for consideration detailed at 3 & 4, which also support the regeneration vision within the Masterplans and ITDRS.

1. Dereliction/vacancy scheme – Given the proliferation on derelict/vacant sites and the limited scope Council currently has to deal with these, a new innovative approach is required to deliver a solution. This may include grant aid and other interventions that tackle the decay and vacancy in our towns/city

Not Applicable

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built environment. The proposal also fits with the recent notice of motion to encourage the re-use or redevelopment of local derelict buildings to provide business opportunities or homes. Consideration would also be given to what powers may be available to Council and/or key statutory partners to place requirements on public and private property owners stop their buildings falling into decay. A partnership approach to this will be essential and an appropriate working group will be created.

2. Wayfinding – is another common area that has been highlighted by the Masterplan reviews. A wayfinding project which will be distinct and bespoke to each town/city is proposed. This may include reference to heritage, tourism, leisure and attractions. This will require an element of design and planning and will allow visitors and residents alike to safely navigate to areas of interest and reflect the unique heritage of each town/city.
3. An issue that is also prominent in our town/city centres is the current poor parking signage that is not particularly informative and badly located. With the removal of parking due to the Queen's Parade development, the issue is likely to be further exasperated within the city and a pilot feasibility plan is therefore proposed for Bangor City Centre. This would look at digital solutions for signage, as well as the potential to integrate parking apps and communication messages to end users. It is anticipated the solutions would then be rolled out to Bangor and the other four towns within the Borough, subject to securing capital funding to do so.
4. The Council recently agreed to pilot a heritage led regeneration project, expressions of interest have now closed, with 3 applications received. The projects will be 50% matched funded by Council (limited to a maximum of £15K) the assessment has now been completed and the following projects meet the criteria and therefore have been deemed successful:
 - Kilcooley Womens Group – Repurposing the old Market House in Bangor to expand the delivery of culture and arts programming for the centre of Bangor
 - Newtownards Masonic Hall and Community Hub – Develop heritage initiatives around the rich historic building and the role it has played in the community over a significant period.
 - Boom Studios – Feasibility study to improve the environment and delivery of sustainable energy efficiencies in the current Boom Studios which will enable more financial saving to go towards further programming for this already successful arts offering in Bangor.

Not Applicable

1. Budget Breakdown

The provisional budget breakdown for the four proposals is outlined below. This is subject to further detailed review.

Project Title	Budget
Dereliction/Vacancy Scheme	£30K
Wayfinding Project	£25K
Parking Signage	£15K
Heritage led Regeneration Initiative X 3	£30K
Total	£100K

It is anticipated that these projects will be completed by March 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council agrees to progress with the four proposals as outlined.

Unclassified

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ITEM 14

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Choose an item.
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Prosperity
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Finance
Date of Report	07 August 2023
File Reference	FIN45
Legislation	Section 5 Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Prosperity Directorate Budgetary Control Report - June 2023
Attachments	

The Prosperity Directorate's Budgetary Control Report covers the 3-month period 1 April to 30 June 2023. The net cost of the Directorate is showing an underspend of £47k (6.4%) – box A on page 3.

Explanation of Variance

The Prosperity Directorate's budgetary performance is further analysed on page 3 into 3 key areas:

Report	Type	Variance	Page
Report 2	Payroll Expenditure	£35k favourable	3
Report 3	Goods & Services Expenditure	£2k adverse	3
Report 4	Income	£14k favourable	3

Choose an item.

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Explanation of Variance

The Prosperity Directorate's overall variance can be summarised by the following table (variances over £10k): -

Type	Variance £'000	Comment
Payroll	(35)	Mainly vacant posts within Economic Development.
Goods & Services	2	
Income		
Tourism	(13)	Tourism Experiences – (£6k). Tourism Events – (£5k).

Choose an item.

40

REPORT 1 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT					
Period 3 - June 2023					
	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	Variance
	£	£	£	£	%
Prosperity					
700 Prosperity HQ	36,192	32,800	3,392	132,000	10.3
720 Economic Development	329,367	368,000	(38,633)	1,345,700	(10.5)
740 Tourism	311,227	322,500	(11,273)	1,529,800	(3.5)
Total	676,786	723,300	A (46,514)	3,007,500	(6.4)
REPORT 2 PAYROLL REPORT					
	£	£	£	£	%
Prosperity - Payroll					
700 Prosperity HQ	33,543	30,400	3,143	121,800	10.3
720 Economic Development	183,053	223,500	(40,447)	903,500	(18.1)
740 Tourism	238,086	235,300	2,786	933,800	1.2
Total	454,682	489,200	B (34,518)	1,959,100	(7.1)
REPORT 3 GOODS & SERVICES REPORT					
	£	£	£	£	%
Prosperity - Goods & Services					
700 Prosperity HQ	2,649	2,400	249	10,200	10.4
720 Economic Development	215,961	213,100	2,861	936,700	1.3
740 Tourism	140,397	141,700	(1,303)	683,400	(0.9)
Total	359,007	357,200	C 1,807	1,630,300	0.5
REPORT 4 INCOME REPORT					
	£	£	£	£	%
Prosperity - Income					
700 Prosperity HQ	-	-	-	-	-
720 Economic Development	(69,647)	(68,600)	(1,047)	(494,500)	(1.5)
740 Tourism	(67,256)	(54,500)	(12,756)	(87,400)	(23.4)
Totals	(136,903)	(123,100)	D (13,803)	(581,900)	(11.2)

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council notes this report.

Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	07 August 2023
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Proposed Rural Projects for Development
Attachments	None

Background

As Members will be aware, a budget of £100,000 was allocated in this year's Regeneration Unit's budgets to work up rural projects to a point where the Council could potentially take advantage of future funding opportunities. This would take the projects to technical design stage and to submit planning applications where required.

Proposed Projects

Following consideration of the village plans and other suggestions received for potential projects, the following are recommended to be taken forward to technical design/planning stage:

1. Millisle Main Street Environmental Improvement Scheme (EIS) – The Council's Urban Designer has developed a concept EIS for Millisle Main Street. This would help increase pedestrian space, provide seating and bike racks, a new resin bound pedestrian pavement surface, new tarmac surfacing, trees, hanging baskets and the replacement of the lighting heads.

Not Applicable**42**

The Millisle Village Forum has been consulted and their view was that the concept would greatly enhance the village.

To take this forward a full technical design is required, consultation with the statutory agencies and a planning application is also necessary.

2. Portaferry Marina – Discussions have recently been held with Portaferry Regeneration Ltd about the operation of the marina. From these it is clear that there are some limitations with the marina and substantial work is now required.

At present the marina can only be used for six months of the year due to its current design. Currently there are 50 berths available, 15 for visiting boats and 35 for local residents. The berths for residents are booked annually and there is a waiting list of 47 who would wish to avail of the facility.

From 2018 until October 2022, 1692 boats have used the facilities at Portaferry marina. PRL has taken soundings from traders in the local area and it is believed that the marina does enhance the facilities and brings visitors to Portaferry and the wider Peninsula area, which in turn creates footfall and additional spend.

The proposal is that the Council would work in partnership with PRL to undertake a feasibility study to ascertain how the marina could be enhanced, deal with any maintenance issues and see what technical works would be required to make the marina an all-year facility. It is proposed that the Council provides a grant of up to £15K and PRL would at least match this but commit to undertake the technical work outlined.

3. Glastry Clay Pits – Discussions with the National Trust, owner of the site, have commenced. The proposal, in line with the recent NOM, is to undertake a technical design work which will consider the development options for the site in consideration of its environmental sensitivities.

This study will consider potential future capital works such as; formalising the trails, cleaning up the ponds, seating areas, a possible natural play area, fishing stands and facilities for anglers, interpretative signage and improvements to the car park.

Budget and Timeline

It is anticipated that these three projects will be completed by March 2024. If the Council agrees to them, costings will now be sought but it is anticipated that they can be undertaken within the budget set.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council agrees to progress the proposed rural projects as outlined within the report.

Unclassified

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ITEM 16

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	16 August 2023
File Reference	RDP14
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Redevelopment of Steps at Princetown Road, Bangor
Attachments	None

The Council previously agreed the following Notice of Motion:

"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."

Council Officers have repeatedly attempted to contact various DfI Officials to progress this project. This has been hampered by a number of officials moving posts and no one responding to the Council's correspondence.

Recently a new Divisional Engineer for the area has been appointed and has been approached regarding the proposal. He has inspected the steps and has responded as follows:

Not Applicable**44**

"Following on from our recent conversations, I can confirm that the steps leading from Mount Pleasant to Queens Parade are adopted and maintained by the Department. Unfortunately given the age and condition of the steps I would not be in favour of any works or changes to the existing make-up of the steps.

Although safe and being maintained in line with our guidelines I would not want anything attached to the steps or the adjacent walls, this includes painting of same. My reason for this is for maintenance inspections and not wanting anything that could potentially mask early warning signs should the steps start to deteriorate.

I am happy to discuss further and, in more detail, if required and we will continue to inspect and maintain the steps in line with current policy.

I know this is not the answer you were hoping for and I am sorry I could not be more assistance on this occasion."

In light of this response and as the steps are owned and controlled by DfI there is nothing further the Council can do to deliver this project.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council notes the report.

Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	11 August 2023
File Reference	RDP14
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Footpath provision at Shore Road, Ballyhalbert
Attachments	Response from the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure dated 10 August 2023

At it's meeting in June 2023 Council agreed to respond to the Department for Infrastructure's Permanent Secretary's letter of 24 May 2023, as Members felt the response was unsatisfactory that the Permanent Secretary had downplayed the road safety issues identified and the Council's suggestion of an alternative pedestrian route. It was also agreed that Council officers should investigate the proposal of the alternative route and report back in due course. Work on this will commence in the Autumn, with further reports brought back to Council in due course.

The Permanent Secretary has further responded, and her letter of 10 August is attached. The Permanent Secretary has again highlighted that any works on this stretch of road would have a significant cost in relation to the benefit. She continued that the Council's proposal for the alternative route was not feasible as it would require land acquisitions and would not be of any benefit to the residents of 2 – 92 Shore Road.

Not Applicable

46

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council notes the response.

**From the Permanent Secretary
Dr Julie Harrison**

Stephen Reid
Chief Executive Ards and North Down
Borough Council

Via email:
Stephen.Reid@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Room 701
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 1175
Email: Perm.Sec@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk
Your reference:
Our reference: SCORR-0343-2023
10 August 2023

Dear Stephen,

REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN FOOTWAY MEASURES AT SHORE ROAD BALLYHALBERT

Thank you for your further letter of 26 July 2023 highlighting your concerns about pedestrian safety at Shore Road, Ballyhalbert.

As previously advised in my letter of 24 May 2023 all requests for improvements to the road network, including the provision of footway schemes or upgrading works, are assessed in line with the Department's current policies and guidance and all works are subject to prioritisation with all viable proposals competing for the finite amount of funding available.

You will also be aware from my previous letter that a feasibility study to identify options for the potential provision of a footway link at this location established that the proposal would require extensive road widening, associated coastal defence works, as well as the need to acquire land from the frontage of properties. Consequently, the costs of such a proposal would be significant and, in comparison to similar proposals within the council area, this particular proposal is considered to be a much lower priority given severely constrained Departmental funding.

The safety measures that have been implemented along Shore Road are intended to supplement the existing speed limit and enhance road safety in the immediate vicinity. It remains incumbent on drivers to navigate the road network safely and with due consideration to the constraints of the existing road geometry and taking account of their own competence and limitations of their vehicle as well as the prevailing weather conditions. Drivers are also expected to be mindful of the safety of themselves and other road users, especially vulnerable road users such as pedestrians or cyclists.

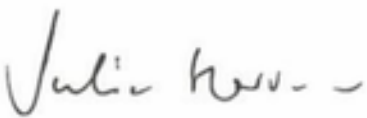
Any concerns regarding driver behaviour such as speeding, or parking which causes an obstruction to other road (and footway) users, or other inconsiderate behaviour should be directed to the PSNI who have the powers of enforcement in that regard. They can be contacted on their non-emergency number, telephone 101.

The Department does not consider the Council's suggested alternative path to be viable as it would need to be accessed through a private caravan park and private land would need to be purchased, potentially including business premises. It is also noted that this proposed alternative path does not provide enhanced facilities for residents of house numbers 2 – 92 Shore Road.

The Council may however wish to consider if the proposed alternative route may have any merit as a Greenway. If so, the Council could seek to promote a Greenway option as part of its Active Travel proposals through its Walking and Cycling champion.

I trust this response helps to clarify the situation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Julie Harrison', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JULIE HARRISON

Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Choose an item.
Council/Committee	Place and Prosperity Committee
Date of Meeting	07 September 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Place
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	16 August 2023
File Reference	RDP14
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Response to Notice of Motion - Safety Concerns at Kircubbin Harbour
Attachments	Response from Department for Communities

Council agreed in June 2023 the undernoted Notice of Motion from Alderman Adair and Councillor Armstrong Cotter:

“That this Council recognises the issues and concerns detailed in the letter sent to the Chief Executive by The Kircubbin Harbour Action Group and agrees to write to the Permanent Secretaries of the Departments of Infrastructure and Communities, asking them to provide details of the responsibility they have in ensuring the public safety of the harbour and listing any details of dealings their departments have had with the owner.”

The Chief Executive wrote to both Permanent Secretaries as per the Council decision and the attached response was received from the Historic Environment Division of the Department for Communities on behalf of both Departments.

Choose an item.

50

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note the response received.



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
Pobal

Department for
Commonities

By email: stephen.reid@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Stephen Reid
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Town Hall
The Castle
Bangor
Co. Down BT20 4BT

DfC Historic Environment Division
9 Lanyon Place
Town Parks
Belfast
BT1 3LP

Your ref: N/A

Our ref: STOF-0443-2023

16 August 2023

Dear Stephen

RE KIRCUBBIN HARBOUR

Thank you for your correspondence to Colum Boyle on the condition of Kircubbin Harbour. I have been asked to respond on his behalf, and on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI).

Kircubbin Harbour was scheduled for protection under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 on 19 December 2007. This statutory protection ensures that the Department takes a proactive interest in the management of the monument but it does not affect ownership of the asset and the harbour remains in private ownership. DfC is able to advise and support the owner to undertake positive management actions, but current legislation does not give the Department the power to force owners to do so and the management of the harbour remains the responsibility of the owner.

The Department monitors the condition of all scheduled monuments on a cyclical basis. Through this monitoring, Historic Environment Division (HED) is already aware of the current condition of the harbour and its deterioration has been noted. To assist our understanding we commissioned two reports on the condition of the harbour from our

specialist advisor, the first in March 2016 which included an options appraisal, and in March 2022 which was an update on the previous assessment. Both have been shared with the owner.

DfC has reached out to the owner to offer guidance and support in light of this information. To date this has not been taken up, but we will continue to engage with the owner to offer that support.

HED has also engaged with DfI Roads on this issue over the past few years, most recently in March of 2023. DfI has advised DfC that their position has not changed since then. DfI advice to DfC is that, in the event of the structural stability of the road network being threatened, the Department for Infrastructure will seek to put measures in place to protect the network. These works would not necessarily involve the historic harbour but may involve works to protect the road in the area adjacent to the scheduled area. The DfI assessment is that the erosion remains some distance from the road boundary and will be monitored. Investigations by DfI indicate that the boundary wall between the carriageway and the harbour quay may in fact be the original sea wall and that the harbour was constructed after the sea wall. If this is the case, the stability of the carriageway is not dependent on the presence of the harbour; rather, the road relies on the sea wall in common with much of the carriageway on the A20.

My staff has had previous engagement with the Kircubbin Harbour Working Group and the representatives continue to keep in contact. We are currently trying to facilitate a meeting between the owner and the Group, but it remains the prerogative of the owner whether he wishes to engage or not. We will continue to engage with whatever group is convened that has an interest in the historic asset, within our statutory remit.

Yours sincerely,



MANUS DEERY RIBA
Assistant Director
Historic Environment Division