

October 6th, 2022

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Thursday, 6th October 2022 at 7:00 pm** in **Virtual via Zoom**.


# Agenda

## Zoom Guidance

 *Guidance for virtual Council meetings.pdf*

*Not included*


## Agenda

 *RDC 6.10..2022 Agenda.pdf*

*Page 1*

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Bangor Chamber of Commerce**

Report attached


 *3. Bangor Chamber of Commerce report.pdf*

*Page 4*

- 3.1 **Presentation by President of Bangor Chamber of Commerce, Geoff Thompson**

## 4. **Comber Chamber of Commerce**

Report attached

 *4. Comber Chamber of Commerce report.pdf*

*Page 6*

- 4.1 **Presentation by Chair of Comber Chamber of Commerce, Iris McBride**

## 5. **Regeneration Performance Report Q1 April-June 2022**

Report attached

 *5. Regeneration Performance Report - Q1 Apr-Jun 2022.pdf*

*Page 8*

## 6. **Town Advisory Group Minutes for noting (Report attached)**

- 6.1 **Bangor TAG – 14.6.22**

## 6.2 Comber TAG – 8.6.22

## 6.3 Donaghadee TAG – 16.6.22

## 6.4 Holywood TAG – 9.6.22

## 6.5 Newtownards TAG – 15.6.22

### 6.1 Bangor TAG – 14.6.22

Copy attached

 *6.1 Bangor TAG minutes 14th June 2022.pdf*

*Page 13*

### 6.2 Comber TAG – 8.6.22

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 *6.2 Comber TAG minutes 8th June 2022.pdf*

*Page 20*

### 6.3 Donaghadee TAG – 16.6.22

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 *6.3 Donaghadee TAG minutes 16th June 2022.pdf*

*Page 25*

### 6.4 Holywood TAG – 9.6.22

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 *6.4 Holywood TAG minutes 9th June 2022.pdf*

*Page 32*

### 6.5 Newtownards TAG – 15.6.22

Copy attached

 *6.5 Newtownards TAG minutes 15th June 2022.pdf*

*Page 36*

## 7. Devolution of Regeneration Powers

Report attached

 *7. Devolution of Regeneration Powers.pdf*

*Page 42*

## **8. Tourism Performance Report Q1 April-June 2022**

Report attached

[!\[\]\(2bdfe261b986065ee0ac76460d6528c9\_img.jpg\) 8. Tourism Performance Report - Q1 2022-23.pdf](#) *Page 44*

## **9. Visit Belfast – 12 Month Overview 2021/22**

Report attached

[!\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5\_img.jpg\) 9. Visit Belfast 12 Month Overview 2021-22.pdf](#) *Page 49*

[!\[\]\(c694a3ff3b077d76910920a6a1593ab4\_img.jpg\) 9.1 Appendix 1 Visit Belfast 12 Month Overview 2021-22.pdf](#) *Page 54*

## **10. Economic Impact Assessment of Pipe Band Championship in Castle Park, Bangor, May 2022**

Report attached

[!\[\]\(aa53ad6fea213b8b2226d3077e30533a\_img.jpg\) 10. Economic Impact Assessment of Pipe Bands Champ in Castle Pk.pdf](#) *Page 73*

## **11. Cockle Row Cottages Update report Season 2023**

Report attached

[!\[\]\(fe3aebe81acea8d45108cd2768939da7\_img.jpg\) 11. Cockle Row Cottages Update Report Season 2023.pdf](#) *Page 78*

## **12. AND Events and Festivals Fund 2022/23 (Community and Tourism)**

Report attached

[!\[\]\(248b91fcdac4810ffd15cf33fb6aec6f\_img.jpg\) 12. AND Events and Festivals Fund 2022\\_23.pdf](#) *Page 80*

## **13. Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Update**

Report attached

[!\[\]\(cbd8541a32dfc32f356f5c6c994b0a21\_img.jpg\) 13. Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Update Report - report to be issued 30.9.22.pdf](#) *Page 86*

## **14. ED Performance Report Q1 April-June 2022**

Report attached

[!\[\]\(ccd39a0dc6d5afcc151e1371f9462f58\_img.jpg\) 14. ED Performance Report Q1 2022-23.pdf](#) *Page 89*

## 15. Ards and North Down Interim Labour Market Partnership Update

Report attached

[15. Ards and North Down Interim Labour Market Partnership update.pdf](#)

Page 93

## 16. 4C UR Future Event

Report attached

[16. 4C UR Future Event.pdf](#)

Page 98

## 17. Bangor Business Awards

Report attached

[17. Bangor Business Awards 2022.pdf](#)

Page 102

## 18. Renewed Ambition

Report attached

[18. Renewed Ambition Programme 2022-3 Update.pdf](#)

Page 104

[18.1. Appendix.pdf](#)

Page 107

## 19. Any Other Notified Business

### 19a a) Ferry cancellation - 24 September

Report attached

[AONB Report.pdf](#)

Page 119

[AONB Appendix 1 Letter from SLTC Ferry Cancellation.pdf](#)

Page 121

**\*\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\*\***

## 20. Pickie Q1 – 1 April-30 June 2022

Report attached

[20. Pickie Qtr 1 1 Apr -30 Jun 22.pdf](#)

Not included

## 21. Exploris Q1 – 1 April-30 June 2022

Report attached

[21. Exploris Qtr 1 1 Apr- 30 Jun 22.pdf](#)

*Not included*

## **22. Bangor Marina Q1 - April to June 2022**

Report attached

[22. Bangor Marina Q1 Apr - June 22.pdf](#)

*Not included*

[22.1 Appendix 1 Bangor Marina Qtr 1 Apr-Jun 2022.pdf](#)

*Not included*

## **23. Business Start Update**

Report attached

[23. Business Start Update.pdf](#)

*Not included*

[23.1 Appendix 1 Business Start Council Breakdown.xlsx](#)

*Not included*

## **24. Project 24 Update**

Report attached

[24. Project 24 Update.pdf](#)

*Not included*

## **25. Update report Experience Funding Programmes – DAERA and TNI**

Report attached

[25. Update report Experience Funding Programmes - DAERA and TNI.pdf](#)

*Not included*

## **26. Memorandum Of Understanding – National Trust, East Down Property Portfolio**

Report attached

[26. MOU National Trust, East Down Property Portfolio.pdf](#)

*Not included*

[26.1 MOU with National Trust, East Down Property Portfolio and ANDBC.pdf](#)

*Not included*

## **27. BRCD Update**

Report attached

[27. BRCD Update.pdf](#)

*Not included*

- 📄 27.1 Guidance for Projects Embedding Social Value in Contracts.pdf** **Not included**
  
- 📄 27.2 Bangor Waterfront Programme.pdf** **Not included**
  
- 📄 27.3 BRCD Council Panel Minutes Jun 22.pdf** **Not included**

## **ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

30 September 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of the Regeneration and Development Committee of the Ards and North Down Borough Council which will be held on **Thursday, 6 October 2022**, commencing at **7.00pm virtually via Zoom**.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Reid  
Chief Executive  
Ards and North Down Borough Council

### **A G E N D A**

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Bangor Chamber of Commerce (report attached)
  - 3.1 Presentation by President of Bangor Chamber of Commerce, Geoff Thompson
4. Comber Chamber of Commerce (report attached)
  - 4.1 Presentation by Chair of Comber Chamber of Commerce, Iris McBride
5. Regeneration Performance Report Q1 April-June 2022 (report attached)
6. Town Advisory Group Minutes for noting (attached)
  - 6.1 Bangor TAG – 14.6.22
  - 6.2 Comber TAG – 8.6.22
  - 6.3 Donaghadee TAG – 16.6.22
  - 6.4 Holywood TAG – 9.6.22
  - 6.5 Newtownards TAG – 15.6.22
7. Devolution of Regeneration Powers (report attached)
8. Tourism Performance Report Q1 April-June 2022 (report attached)
9. Visit Belfast – 12 Month Overview 2021/22 (report attached)
10. Economic Impact Assessment of Pipe Band Championship in Castle Park, Bangor, May 2022 (report attached)



11. Cockle Row Cottages Update report Season 2023 (report attached)
12. AND Events and Festivals Fund 2022/23 (Community and Tourism) (report attached)
13. Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Update (report attached)
14. ED Performance Report Q1 April-June 2022 (report attached)
15. Ards and North Down Interim Labour Market Partnership Update (report attached)
16. 4C UR Future Event (report attached)
17. Bangor Business Awards (report attached)
18. Renewed Ambition (report attached)
19. Any Other Notified Business
  - a) Ferry cancellation - 24 September (report attached)

**\*\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\*\***

20. Pickie Q1 – 1 April-30 June 2022 (report attached)
21. Exploris Q1 – 1 April-30 June 2022 (report attached)
22. Bangor Marina Q1 - April to June 2022 (report attached)
23. Business Start Update (report attached)
24. Project 24 Update (report attached)
25. Update report Experience Funding Programmes – DAERA and TNI (report attached)
26. Memorandum Of Understanding – National Trust, East Down Property Portfolio (report attached)
27. BRCD Update (report attached)

**MEMBERSHIP OF REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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

Councillor Blaney	Councillor McKimm
Councillor Brooks	Councillor Walker (Chairman)

Unclassified

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## ITEM 3

**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	22 September 2022
File Reference	RDP 60
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Presentation by Bangor Chamber of Commerce
Attachments	None

At the meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2022 it was agreed to invite each of the Chambers of Commerce to make a short presentation about the work they intend to undertake over the current financial year and how they plan to use the Council's grant of £12K.

The Bangor Chamber has already provided the following indicative proposals and plans to return to regular networking events, training events, engagement on Council-led events and support for their members.

Some of the planned activity for the year includes:

- *To increase and improve engagement with business and all stakeholders in Bangor.*
- *To increase membership and provide a platform for the business community in Bangor.*
- *To continue our support for major capital projects including Queens Parade and the Waterfront Scheme.*
- *To continue to provide free training opportunities for local businesses. We hope to extend this Borough-wide and share the benefits with the other four Chambers.*

## Unclassified

- *To employ a part-time administrative assistant who can deal with day-to-day activities.*

*For this year the Chamber intends to run a number of events which include:*

- *Regular monthly meetings / events for members.*
- *New Legislation events*
- *Showcasing events for new members.*
- *Supporting Sea Bangor with our Gazebo and free merchandise. (as well as future Council-led events)*
- *2022 Business Awards – Details to be confirmed*
- *Support the Bangor Christmas Lights switch-on.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee notes the above.

Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	22 September 2022
File Reference	RDP 60
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Presentation by Comber Chamber of Commerce
Attachments	None

At the meeting of the Council held on 29 June 2022 it was agreed to invite each of the Chambers of Commerce to make a short presentation about the work they intend to undertake over the current financial year and how they plan to use the Council's grant of £12K.

The Comber Chamber has already provided the following information and plans to return to regular networking events, training events, engagement on Council-led events and support for their members.

The Chamber continues to focus on helping businesses develop skills, promoting the town as a destination and identifying projects that will assist with the economic development of the town. The Chamber works to increase its membership and reach out to all businesses in Comber and surrounding area to offer support and networking opportunities.

An exciting pilot initiative was launched this year with Comber Chamber of Commerce opening a Pop-up shop in the town by taking a vacant unit and offering it to small businesses on a weekly basis. This has proved an exciting and innovative project with the shop being filled every week and booked ahead for three months.

## Unclassified

A Town Manager was recruited in February 2022 to help develop projects, seek funding and professionally market the town via social media and advertising campaigns. The Chamber also has a website which is continually updated that has local business features highlighted.

Despite the restrictions and difficulties of the last two years the Chamber has continued to work to ensure members and business in the area felt they were being supported and promoted.

Comber Chamber of Commerce aims to promote Comber as a top visitor destination to eat, shop and explore. Comber is home to great small independent businesses, amazing restaurants and cafes and tourist and historical attractions. In 2022/2023 the Comber Chamber of Commerce will focus on helping small business reach their audiences and promote the wealth of fantastic products available. It will focus on general promotion of the town as a whole including:

- Promotional activities
- Training for members
- Pop-up-shop
- Networking events
- Collaboration with other regeneration initiatives and partners

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee notes the above.

## ITEM 5

**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	6 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	19 August 2022
File Reference	160127
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Regeneration Performance Report, Quarter 1 (April - June 2022)
Attachments	Q1 Report

**Context**

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlines 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 2022)
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2022)

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

### Reporting approach

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a quarterly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 1 (Q1)	April – June	September
Q2	July – September	December
Q3	October – December	March
Q4	January - March	June

The report for Quarter 1 2022-23 is attached.

### Key points to note:

- DfC has agreed an extension of the Covid Recovery funding programme until 31 March 2023.
- Planning permission has been received for the parklet schemes in Comber and Newtownards, however, permission for the scheme for Bangor has not been received as DfI has not responded to the Planning Section.
- The covering project for Hibernia Street, Holywood still awaits a planning determination. This is being held up again as DfI has not provided comments on the application.
- The Letter of Offer for the Small Settlements Grants has been received and returned. Permission to commence the projects from DfC has now been received.
- The Portavogie Harbour project, which is to be funded by SEAFLAG, has received permission to commence, however, the Council's request for an extension of the programme until 31 March 2023 is still being considered. The Council's agent is also negotiating with the preferred contractor concerning the tender price and any uplifts they may be seeking.

### Key achievements:

- Consultation on the Small Settlements projects has commenced and are proving to be mainly supportive of the proposed projects. Further consultation will be undertaken when concept proposals are developed.
- The Council has obtained confirmation from DAERA that applications for funding under the Rural Development Programme for playpark projects in Portaferry and Cloughy can be considered.
- The installation of the new cycle provisions across the Borough has commenced and are being well received.

### Emerging issues:

- The masterplan for the Commons in Donaghadee has been completed, however, further consultation has now been requested. This process is attracting additional costs and staff time.



- Due to a number of vacancies in the unit the commencement of certain projects may be delayed or deferred.
- Funding may become available under the Peace Plus programme within the next year. Funding will be required to develop some projects to be ready to avail of this when the various calls open.

**Action to be taken:**

- To continue to monitor the implementation of all projects.
- To try and recruit key staff as quickly as possible.
- To commence a programme of meetings with the various village groups to review and prioritise projects in the village plans that may be suitable for funding under Peace Plus. This process will only commence if the staffing issues can be addressed.
















**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council note the report.

## Quarterly Performance Report - Regeneration

Generated on: 19 August 2022

Last Update Q1 2022/23

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	% spend against budget	52.29%	100%
	To deliver the town recovery plans and a rural recovery plan	0	0
	To monitor the compliance of the Rural Development Programme grant from the various applicants	0	0
	No of Urban/Rural projects to planning stage to access funding streams	0	0
	No of Masterplan reviews	0	0
	% staff attendance	97.28%	95%
	Team briefings delivery to all staff who are not on leave/maternity/long term sick	100%	100%
	Pride and Performance review complete with all staff	0%	0%
	No of staff meetings including updates on service plan delivery	10	9
	To develop, agree, secure funding and commence delivery of a public realm scheme for Portaferry	No	No
	To agree detailed technical design for Marine Gardens QP with Bangor Marina	0	0
	To progress the Bangor Waterfront Scheme, to agree Operating Model with BYC	0	0
	To complete the Portavogie promenade scheme	0	0
	No of meetings with Town Advisory Groups to develop regeneration improvements	5	1
	To commence a Strategic Masterplan for Kinnegar Logistics Base	0	0

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	To commence an OBC for the Kinnegar Logistics Base development	0	0
	New Chambers of Commerce 2-year Business Plans	0	0
	Manage the full commitment of the Rural Development Programme budget	£0.00	£0.00
	% Business as Usual and Covid Grant with completed PPE's	0%	0%
	No of projects developed in partnership with EBR for Peace Plus funding	0	0
	Commence capital scheme using funding from Covid Recovery Small Settlements Programme	0	0



<b>Bangor Town Advisory Group</b>		
<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>
	<b>TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022</b>	<b>Via Zoom</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Councillor Ray McKimm – Chair Mayor Councillor Karen Douglas Alderman Wesley Irvine Councillor Alistair Cathcart Councillor Stephen Dunlop Geoff Thompson - Bangor Chamber Frank Shivers – Bangor Chamber Marianne Kennerley – Bangor Chamber Philip McMillan – Faith Representative Brian Dorrian - Head of Regeneration, ANDBC David Shivers - Urban Development Manager, ANDBC Wendy Smith - Events Manager, ANDBC Carly McMullan – Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Sonia Tomblin - Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Martin Mawhinney - Administrative Assistant, ANDBC	
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from: Niall McVitty - DfC Jim Russell - Kilcooley Community Forum Alison Blayney - Kilcooley Women's Centre	
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	No Declarations of Interest were received.	
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Update on Memorial Wall - Sharon Regan</b>	

	<p>A presentation was provided by Sharon Regan regarding the Memorial Wall project. <i>Previously circulated.</i></p> <p>Councillor McKimm thanked Sharon Regan for the presentation and agreed it was a good idea. He asked if there could be a digital presence to engage with the pieces. Sharon Regan agreed to give some thought to this.</p> <p>Councillor Cathcart asked if the plaques would be removable in light of the Marine Gardens scheme. Sharon Regan confirmed they are removable. He also pointed out the importance of making it obvious this project was reflecting the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>The Members voiced their support for the project and agreed that this project should be brought forward to DfC for funding.</p> <p>Proposed – Councillor Cathcart Seconded – Alderman Irvine</p> <p><i>Sharon Regan left at 4.25</i> <i>Stephen Dunlop joined at 4.25</i> <i>Geoff Thomspen joined 4.28</i> <i>Marianne Kennerley joined 4.28</i></p>
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Events - Wendy Smith Events Manager ANDBC</b>
	<p>Wendy Smith asked members for any feedback on the recent Sea Bangor and Queen's Jubilee events that she could relay to her team.</p> <p>Alderman Irvine congratulated the team on a great event but remarked that many of the food and drink prices were prohibitive to most families.</p> <p>Councillor Cathcart echoed Councillor Irvine's congratulations, but added that basic maintenance work around the seafront and the fountain, particularly regarding weeds, could have been better. He also noted that bins weren't emptied after the event and suggested that the Events team could co-ordinate better on these issues with the Properties and Assets team.</p>

<p><b>Action</b></p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p><b>Action</b></p>	<p>Wendy Smith replied that her team had carried out some weeding work and reflected that the weather conditions had played a factor in the weeds that were there.</p> <p>The Chair asked Wendy Smith if it would be useful to incorporate Properties and Assets into her team's pre-planning meetings, and she replied that they do as a rule, but in future will write to them six weeks ahead of these meetings to remind them to attend.</p> <p>The Mayor congratulated the events team and their partner agencies on their good work on these events. However, she reflected that it was disappointing that Council keep failing when it comes to basic maintenance and should be upping their game in this regard.</p> <p>The Mayor suggested that the Cleaning and Properties and Assets Teams attend a future TAG meeting, to which Brian Dorrian suggested putting the matter to an Environmental Committee. The Mayor stated she was happy to put together a Notice of Motion and report back to the TAG.</p> <p>Councillor Dunlop noted that he had seen a group of market analysts in the seafront area during the Queen's Jubilee weekend and asked Wendy Smith if she could shed any light on their findings. Wendy Smith replied the CARD company who carried out this research among the estimated 50,000 visitors over the weekend would provide a full analysis in due course, which she will share with the group when received.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Wendy Smith for her team's work on this weekend, adding the TAG were united and unanimous in their gratitude.</p>
<p><b>Item 5</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting (Bangor Town Advisory Group)</b></p>
<p><b>Action</b></p>	<p><i>Previously Circulated: Bangor TAG minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022</i></p> <p>Proposed: Alderman Irvine Seconded: Councillor Cathcart</p> <p>Philip McMillan noted to Martin Mawhinney that his name didn't appear on the list of attendees for the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 meeting and asked him to add it.</p>

<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Update on outstanding actions- David Shivers - Urban Development Manager</b>
	<p><b>1. Banners around town centre</b></p> <p>David Shivers drew Members' attention to an advertising banner that had been seen around Bangor town centre which was in poor repair and featured inappropriate language. He stated that he had been in contact with Colin Pentland from Dfl to discuss the matter.</p> <p>David Shivers advised that Colin Pentland is aware of the issue but pointed to restricted resources to deal with it. David Shivers said that any Member could contact Colin Pentland about any instance of this advertisement they saw in specific areas, and Colin Pentland would seek to address them.</p> <p><b>Action</b> The Chair asked David Shivers to send the relevant email contact to Members outlining the above and he agreed to do so.</p> <p><b>2. Bins at Boathouse</b></p> <p>David Shivers read out a response from Gillian Robinson - Compliance ANDBC.</p> <p><b>3. Masterplans</b></p> <p>David Shivers informed the group that he is currently working with the corporate comms team to develop drop-in events around the five towns, possibly towards the end of August. Any further progress will be reported to the group.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p><b>4. Memorial project – Sharon Regan</b></p> <p>Presentation provided under item 3</p> <p><b>5. Castle Park lighting</b></p> <p>David Shivers will be meeting with Property and Assets regarding issue of the lighting at Castle Park and will feed back any progress before the next meeting.</p> <p><b>6. Mill Row</b></p>

<p><b>Action</b></p>	<p>Colin Pentland - DFI provided a response. In relation to the bins in Mill Street, where the bins are causing an obstruction, responsibility for enforcement action lies with the PSNI. This has been confirmed by senior officers within the PSNI.</p> <p>Alderman Irvine requested this is kept on the agenda.</p> <p><b>7. Anti-social behaviour in the town</b></p> <p>Councillor McKimm has spoken to PSNI and they are monitoring this situation.</p> <p><b>8. Graffiti at Pickie</b></p> <p>Jim Atkinson, Property Maintenance Supervisor, ANDBC provided a response. The area will be painted when the weather and the tides permit, hopefully in the next few weeks.</p> <p><b>9. Queens Parade redevelopment</b></p> <p>David Shivers responded that once there is further information to update, a representative will be invited.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Councillor Cathcart raised the ongoing issue regarding the planters in Abbey Street. David Shivers responded that he would go back to John McConnell to see if any compromise can be reached.</p>
<p><b>Item 7</b></p>	<p><b>Parklet Update-David Shivers-Urban Development Manager</b></p>
	<p>David Shivers informed the group that the Guillemot Parklet planning application had been refused. He explained that the deadline for completion was September and given the time restraints, he suggested the parklet be placed potentially in the Eisenhower carpark as this is council land and could be erected under permitted development.</p> <p>The members expressed their frustrations at the length of time the procedure has taken due to planning restrictions.</p> <p>Geoff Thompson suggested asking local business for a response, however David Shivers explained that if a new location was suggested this would need to go through planning and could take six months. Frank Shivers suggested the money was spent on something else to encourage footfall into the City.</p> <p>Councillor Cathcart suggested an email be sent out for suggestions for a different scheme. This was agreed.</p>



<p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Action</p>	<p>Proposed: Councillor Cathcart Seconded: The Mayor</p> <p>Brian Dorrian stated that an email would be sent out to the group with Dfl criteria and the members would have one week to come back with suggestions.</p> <p>The Mayor suggested ideas should come from local businesses and asked if they could be contacted also. Brian Dorrian asked the Chamber representatives to send out the information to their members.</p> <p>The Mayor enquired as to who liaises with the businesses who are not members of the chamber, Frank Shivers stated that all the Chamber information was on the website and also on the Facebook page for the public to see.</p> <p>The Mayor felt that local businesses who were not members of the chambers should be contacted...David Shivers stated that Signal had a mailing list, however GDPR would prevent its use. Councillor McKimm suggested he would contact the Comms Department to see how we could further communicate with the non-chamber businesses.</p>
<p><b>Item 8</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Covid Recovery and Revitalisation Funding- David Shivers (Urban Development Manager)</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business Adaptation and Improvement Grant Scheme</b> – The scheme is now closed and Letters of Offer totalling approx. £176,509 of grant funding had been issued.</li> <li>• <b>Cycling Infrastructure</b> – the cycling infrastructure was due to arrive this week and would be installed at various locations in the borough over the next 2-3 months.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Item 9</b></p>	<p><b>Update from DFC</b></p>
	<p>No update available as DfC had registered apologies.</p>
<p><b>Item 10</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>
	<p>Sharon Regan provided a written proposal regarding a Hop-On Hop-Off bus. <i>Previously circulated.</i></p>

	<p>Councillor Cathcart asked if this was something that Translink would need to be approached about. Brian Dorrian explained that Translink deal with the major transportation around the town, however, were unlikely to cater for this. He added that to set up such a service would be costly, but it was something that could continue to be explored as the Waterfront project develops.</p> <p>Alderman Irvine voiced his support for the concept but asked who would fund it. The Chair responded that he had a meeting Translink in June and this had covered three elements – public access, tours and tourism. He spoke to Sharon Mehaffy, Head of Tourism, in order for her to prepare a Notice of Motion. The Chair stated that Sharon Mehaffy has carried out preliminary investigations, and it looks like this project could be viable.</p> <p>Marianne Kennerley stated there were land trains already present in other British cities and that they offer a fantastic business opportunity for Bangor.</p> <p>The Chair added that a red (Hop-On Hop-Off) bus could tie in with the city's waterbus project too, and Marianne Kennerley pointed out that there would be some disruption, with tourists and residents unable to walk along the coast fully while work was carried out there.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Councillor Cathcart for raising the issue and stated that this project has a lot of potential.</p>
<b>Item 11</b>	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>
<b>Action</b>	The next meeting would take place in around three months' time, the date was to be confirmed.
<b>Item 12</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
	The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 5.40

<b>Comber Town Advisory Group</b>		
<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>
<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022</b>	<b>Via Zoom</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Councillor Trevor Cummings – Chair Alderman Deborah Girvan Iris McBride – Comber Chamber of Commerce Liz Hamilton – Faith Representative Roy Murray - Comber Regeneration and Community Partnership David Shivers – Urban Development Manager, ANDBC Wendy Smith – Events Manager, ANDBC Sonia Tomblin – Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Martin Mawhinney- Administrative Assistant, ANDBC	
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
	David Shivers welcomed everyone to the meeting. And introduced Martin Mawhinney as the new Administrative Assistant. Apologies were received from: Niall McVitty – DfC Paul Carr – DfC It was noted that Liz Hamilton would be joining the meeting late.	
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	No Declarations of Interest were received.	
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Events Update-Wendy Smith ANDBC</b>	
	Wendy Smith provided an update regarding the upcoming events to be held in Comber.  Questions were invited from Members  Councilor Cummings expressed a concern regarding road closures for the event Wendy Smith confirmed that all road closures were in place.	

	<p><i>Alderman Girvan joined the meeting 16.10 and was asked to take over as chair from Councillor Cummings.</i></p> <p>Alderman Girvan asked what the budget was for the event and stated that the chamber would help promote it in the town.</p> <p>Councillor Cummings raised a concern regarding the long grass in the carpark at the leisure centre and hoped it would be cut before the event.</p>
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Update on Greenway- Presented by Andrew Dadley (Head of Strategic Capital Development ANDBC)</b>
<b>ACTION</b>	<p>Andrew Dadley had been invited to the meeting to provide an update but was not in attendance and would therefore be invited to the next meeting of Comber TAG.</p> <p><i>Liz Hamilton joined meeting 16.16</i></p>
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Update on Laurel Bank-Written response from John McConnell ANDBC</b>
<b>ACTION</b>	<p>David Shivers read out the written response provided by John McConnell.</p> <p>Alderman Girvan asked who is responsible for the Biodiversity Plan- David Shivers responded that it was the Council.</p> <p>Roy Murray raised concerns regarding the river in the village being blocked due to 'Penny Wart'.</p> <p>Iris McBride asked if a charity could become involved in the maintenance of the dams.</p> <p>Councillor Cummings enquired if the Local Area Biodiversity Action Plan (LABP) was at a NI wide level and funded by DEARA?</p> <p>David Shivers suggested that John McConnell be invited to the Next meeting to discuss and answer any questions on the LABP.</p>
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting – Comber Town Advisory Group Meeting 13/09/2021</b>
	<p><i>Previously Circulated: Comber TAG minutes 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022</i></p> <p>The minutes were circulated for Member's information.</p>

	Proposed by Councillor Cummings Seconded by Iris McBride
<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Update on outstanding actions - David Shivers (Urban Development Manager ANDBC)</b>
<b>Action</b>	<p><b>Greenways</b> Andrew Dadley would be requested to attend the next Comber TAG meeting and provide an update.</p> <p><b>Seating in Town</b>  The members had asked at previous meeting why a more durable material had not been chosen. David Shivers responded that Materials had been chosen on the designs agreed by public consultation through the public realm scheme.</p> <p><b>Action</b> <b>Carpark update requested from Peter Caldwell.</b> Peter had responded by stating it was too early for an update- and will be invited to the meeting when there has been a response from planners.  The members also asked if measures would be put in place to mitigate vandalism in the new carpark- it was suggested that all questions would be put to Peter Caldwell when he attends with an update.</p> <p><b>Action</b> Alderman Girvan requested that the tables be brought back out into the square – Sonia Tomblin will contact Wendy Smith to enquire.</p>
<b>Item 8</b>	<b>Update on Covid Recovery and Revitalisation Funding, David Shivers (Urban Development Manager)</b>
	<p>David Shivers provided an update as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business Adaptation and Improvement Grant Scheme</b> – The scheme is now closed and Letters Of Offer totalling £73,056 of grant funding had been issued.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Action</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cycling Infrastructure</b> – the cycling infrastructure was due to arrive this week and would be installed at various locations in the borough over the next 2-3 months.</li> <li>• <b>Parklets</b> – the planning had been approved through Council. Although the design was complete and a manufacturer appointed, there is no definitive timeline for installation, but it is hoped this would be mid-August. Members expressed frustration at the length of time taken to deliver the parklet scheme.</li> <li>• <b>Flower Sculpture</b>- It was noted that the Goose Flower Sculpture has not yet been put back out on display – Sonia Tomblin will chase up with Wendy Smith</li> </ul> <p>Questions were invited from Members.</p> <p>Roy Murray raised a concern regarding the boards covering the frontage of Connoisseurs Bakery in the Town needed replacing, however as the building is privately owned it would not be a Council issue.</p> <p><i>Councillor Cumming left the meeting 16.34</i></p>
<p><b>Item 9</b></p>	<p><b>Update from DfC</b></p>
	<p>No update available as DfC had registered their apologies.</p>
<p><b>Item 10</b></p>	<p><b>Additional Projects - David Shivers (Urban Development Manager ANDBC)</b></p>
	<p><b>Car Park</b>-David Shivers reported that the proposed a scheme to improve the Bridge Street Leisure Centre car park was to be raised at the Regeneration meeting this week. He also reported that the project would be under permitted development so planning would not be an issue.</p>

<b>Item 11</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	<p>Alderman Girvan asked Roy Murray to provide an update on Comber Regeneration and Community Partnership events. Roy Murray gave a brief overview of the planned events for the summer. Alderman Girvan thanked him for all the hard work and the success of the events over the Jubilee weekend.</p> <p>An update was provided by Iris McBride regarding the Chamber of Commerce. She informed the group that preparations for Christmas events were underway. The success of the popup shop was also discussed.</p> <p><b>Action</b> A discussion was had regarding the banners on the roundabout causing a danger as they were hanging onto the road. David Shivers stated he would contact Vincent McConville at Dfl.</p> <p><b>Action</b> Iris McBride mentioned that the roundabout needed cleaning. David Shivers stated he would raise this with Dfl.</p> <p>Alderman Girvan raised a concern regarding paramilitary flags erected outside the Catholic Church, also flagpoles appearing around the town. David Shivers suggested she contact Nicky Dorrian ANDBC to discuss a community led solution.</p>
<b>Item 12</b>	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>
<b>Action</b>	The date of the next Comber TAG meeting would take place in September
	<b>Adjournment</b>
	The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.



**Ards and  
North Down**  
Borough Council

<b>Donaghadee Town Advisory Group</b>		
<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>
4PM	<b>THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022</b>	<b>Via Zoom</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Adrian Kerr - Chair Alderman Bill Keery Councillor Gavin Walker Councillor Janice MacArthur John Caldwell - Chamber Representative Andrew Dadley - Head of Strategic Capital Development, ANDBC Brian Dorrian - Head of Regeneration, ANDBC David Shivers - Urban Development Manager, ANDBC Carly McMullan - Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Sonia Tomblin - Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Martin Mawhinney - Administrative Assistant, ANDBC	
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.  <i>Andrew Dadley joined at 4.02pm</i>	
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>Agreed</b>	Apologies were received from: Niall McVitty - DfC  No Declarations of Interest were received.	
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Update on Greenway Project, Andrew Dadley (Head of Strategic Capital Development)</b>	



Andrew Dadley told the group the planners have asked for an environmental statement, which the Strategic Capital Development team will submit towards the end of July, before the NI Environment Agency look at it, and it is then made available for public consultation, via an information booklet set to be released.

Andrew Dadley stated he wanted to give the town's people some time over the summer to digest the document, and then carry out the public consultation, with an evening of public engagement in September.

John Caldwell raised concerns around potential traffic congestion that may be caused by this route. Andrew Dadley responded that the drawings had carried out, traffic engineers had conducted their studies, and no issue had been raised by DfI in this regard. He said the Road Service were best placed to respond to any of John Caldwell's concerns.

The members asked what the timescale was for the completion of the Donaghadee leg of the Greenway. Andrew Dadley replied that Strategic Capital Development need to obtain planning permission for the entire route first, and, considering a business case would take around nine months to complete, he estimated around a year and a half from the point that permission was obtained.

Andrew Dadley outlined there were four parts to this Greenway – Kinnegar to Donaghadee, Comber to Newtownards, Newtownards to Bangor and Green Road, Bangor to Donaghadee. The Chair asked if these were going together as one package, and Andrew Dadley responded that no, they would be split into four separate planning applications.

Councillor Walker asked if there was an easy way to find all related documents. Andrew Dadley told the group the Greenways section of Council's website was best, and that work was ongoing to provide more user-friendly drawings there.

The Chair raised concerns about low community awareness around the Greenways. Andrew Dadley explained that 20,000 leaflets have been distributed in connection with them, and asked whether alternative

<b>Action</b>	<p>solutions, such a weekly newspaper advertisement or billboard campaign would be possible.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Andrew Dadley for his contribution.</p> <p>Andrew Dadley stated he would attend the next TAG meeting and that they would have the required drawings to help with their discussions then.</p> <p><i>Andrew Dadley left at 4.29pm</i></p>
<b>Item 4</b>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meetings (Donaghadee Town Advisory Group)</b></p> <p><i>Previously Circulated: Donaghadee TAG minutes 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 2022.</i></p> <p>Proposed: Councillor Walker Seconded: John Caldwell</p>
<b>Item 5</b>	<p><b>Update on outstanding actions, David Shivers (Urban Development Manager)</b></p>
	<p><b>Surplus painted stones</b> John Caldwell enquired if there were plans agreed for the surplus stones as at present they have been placed on the flowerbed at the Moat. Peter Caldwell, Head of Assets and Property Services, supplied a written response prior to the meeting explaining that there were no plans for these as they were intended to be a temporary replacement.</p> <p><b>Dfl funding requirements</b> These were issued to the members by Carly McMullan</p> <p><b>Award plaques</b> Image supplied by Peter Caldwell and circulated to members with agenda.</p> <p><b>DfC to be invited for update at next meeting</b> Invite sent. David Shivers expressed his hope that a DfC representative would be present at the next TAG meeting.</p> <p><b>Link to Harbour Study Report to be provided to Noel Johnston</b> Sent by Sonia Tomblin.</p> <p><b>Wildflower planting at the moat</b></p>

<b>Action</b>	<p>Stephen Daye, Parks and Cemeteries Officer, supplied a written response prior to the meeting, which stated: "We are looking at options for Motte bank at the moment, we have no plans at the moment to plant wildflowers but are looking at using a remote control lawnmower to cut the bank grass."</p> <p>John Caldwell raised a query about the Play Strategy, to which David Shivers replied he had no update, but would ask for an update from Edel Trainor, Outdoor Recreation Officer.</p>
<b>Item 6</b>	<p><b>Discussion on content for Town Centre Touchscreen Information Hub/ Kiosk</b></p>
	<p>David Shivers explained members had previously been asked about where they would like to redirect unspent funds originally intended for parklets, and between two options – updating the town's Wifi network or Touchscreen Information Hubs – the latter had been the more popular option. He highlighted that through this system, links could be made to tourism and council websites at the touch of a button, and asked members for further suggestions regarding content they would like to see featured on it.</p> <p>The Chair said he would like to see ideas benchmarked with other towns that already have these Hubs in place.</p> <p>David Shivers added the Hubs can provide links to Translink timetables, and that it offers an alternative and more versatile point of information to the traditional noticeboard currently used in the town.</p> <p>Councillor MacArthur suggested devising a 'site map' of what these Information Hubs will provide, adding that it required a fair degree of thought and would need to be futureproofed.</p> <p>Councillor Walker questioned if the Hubs would potentially be replicating the work done by the Visit Donaghadee website.</p> <p>David Shivers pointed out that if the group was not happy with the value of this project continuing, they had the option to revert to the upgrading Wifi option, which would involve updating ageing Wifi hubs to make them more useable.</p> <p>The Chair reflected that the group might require technical help if it came to implementing the Information Hubs, as well as a pilot scheme and a timescale for them.</p>

<b>Action</b>	<p>David Shivers commented said he was happy to gain more information and allow Members more time to consider the matter.</p> <p>The members raised the importance of looking at existing Information Hubs in other cities before progressing.</p> <p>Councillor MacArthur stated having created content for these Hubs in the past, she believed they would be a good asset for the town.</p> <p>David Shivers said he would contact the company involved with the Information Hubs and relay any reply to the group. He admitted that some of the Members' question were difficult to answer without someone from the company involved.</p>
<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Update on Covid Recovery and Revitalisation Funding, David Shivers (Urban Development Manager)</b>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business Adaptation and Improvement Grant Scheme</b> – The scheme is now closed and approx. £41,172 of grant funding had been issued.</li> <li>• <b>Copelands Court</b> – Works are now complete</li> <li>• <b>Flower Sculpture</b> – This will not be returning</li> <li>• <b>Lemons Wharf</b> – Completed and had received excellent feedback</li> <li>• <b>Cycle Racks</b> – works should begin within 2-3 months.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor MacArthur highlighted she was aware of graffiti appearing in in play parks in the town, and that the PSNI were going to engage with a youth pastor in relation to this. She also said she would like to see benches at Lemons Wharf facing seaward rather than just inward.</p> <p>David Shivers said that he would keep this latter point in mind, and if any funds were left in the budget this could be investigated further.</p>
<b>Item 8</b>	<b>Update by DfC</b>
	No representative from DfC was present at the meeting.

Item 9	Any Other Business
Action	<p><b>Queen's Jubilee celebrations</b> John Caldwell recorded his thanks for Councillor MacArthur's help, during the recent Queen's Jubilee celebrations, in overcoming difficulties in gaining Council's approval for the use of Lemons Wharf.</p> <p>John Caldwell stated that he would prefer a larger budget from Council when it comes to future events, adding the £1,000 provided for this occasion was easily spent.</p> <p><b>Car parking</b> John Caldwell told Members he had been involved in a Zoom meeting with David Lindsay, Director of Environment, and Susie McCullough, Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning, about car parking in the town – a problem John Caldwell stated had been in existence for 60 years. He said the town could not continue under the current arrangements and that he and David Lindsay are working to produce a report on the issue by the end of September.</p> <p>The Chair asked John Caldwell if there were any Donaghadee Community Development Association upcoming events, to which he listed a full festival calendar, motorbike racing on the beach, and County Comes to Town featuring a Garth Brooks tribute band and food market stalls including a Food NI kitchen. He also said Donaghadee In Bloom was in full swing, featuring 67 hanging baskets and 200 window boxes in the town. It was requested that an update from DCDA be a standing item on the agenda.</p> <p>The Chair drew Members' attention to the fact that a booklet containing details of these events and more would be available in the town's shops throughout the summer.</p> <p>Councillor MacArthur recorded her thanks for the work of Donaghadee Community Development Association over the Queen's Jubilee weekend, adding they had helped to create a great buzz about the town.</p> <p>Councillor MacArthur told the group that she hopes to bring forward a Notice of Motion regarding the review of Health and Safety's involvement with this event.</p> <p>Mr Johnston had provided a proposal for a Notice of Motion regarding the Masterplans and Donaghadee Harbour. Brian Dorrian informed that a review of the Masterplans was ongoing, but the harbour issue would sit under the Environment Directorate. A discussion took place and it was</p>

	decided that although the steering group agreed with the sentiments, this could not be taking this forward at present. Councillor MacArthur stated she would be happy to meet up with Mr. Johnson to discuss.
<b>Item 10</b>	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>
<b>Action</b>	The next meeting would take place in around three months' time, the date was to be confirmed. Members would be notified if a further meeting is needed before then.
<b>Item 11</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
	The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 5.20pm.



<b>Holywood Town Advisory Group</b>		
<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>
4:00pm	<b>THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022</b>	<b>Via Zoom</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Councillor Martin McRandal – Chair Councillor Carl McClean Councillor Lauren Kendall Robin Masefield- Co-Opted Member Marilyn Toogood – Faith Representative Nadia Dornan – Youth Representative Wendy Smith – Events Manager, ANDBC David Shivers – Urban Development Manager, ANDBC Carly McMullan - Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Sonia Tomblin – Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Martin Mawhinney- Administrative Assistant, ANDBC	
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
	The Chair, Councillor McRandal welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from: Niall McVitty – DfC Councillor Peter Johnson Brian Dorrian – Head of Regeneration, ANDBC (had to leave the meeting at 16.05 due to technical difficulties)	
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	No Declarations of Interest were received.	
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Events update - Wendy Smith ANDBC</b>	
	Wendy Smith was keen to receive input from Members regarding this year's May Day Bank Holiday events held in Holywood. Wendy stated	

	<p>that the 80 per cent of the feedback from 16 stall holders had been positive and the event was very well attended.</p> <p>Marilyn Toogood reported it had been a positive day, with a good atmosphere and that following two years without these events, it had been just the injection that the town needed.</p> <p>Nadia Dornan stated from a youth perspective it had been amazing and had a great festival feeling.</p> <p>Robin Masefield welcomed the return of Maypole dancing and said his U3A stall had helped to make positive connections.</p> <p>Wendy Smith stated that she would pass these positive remarks on to her team. Robin Masefield informed that he would be meeting with Valerie Cobain from U3A and would relay any further feedback to Wendy Smith.</p> <p>Wendy Smith thanked the members.</p> <p><i>Wendy Smith left the meeting at 16.11</i></p>
<p><b>Item 4</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting – Hollywood Town Advisory Group Meeting</b></p>
	<p><i>Previously Circulated: Hollywood TAG minutes 29<sup>th</sup> Mar 2022</i></p>
	<p>Proposed by Robin Masefield                  Secoded by Councillor Kendall</p>
<p><b>Item 5</b></p>	<p><b>Update on outstanding actions- David Shivers Urban Development Manager - ANDBC</b></p>
	<p><b>Flower sculptures</b>                  David Shivers had contacted Wendy Smith and she was investigating alternative options for the flower sculpture.</p> <p><b>Greenspace at Palace Barracks</b>                  Robin Masefield responded that this action has been temporarily paused, as the Palace refencing project is running slow. To be revisited in early Autumn.</p> <p><b>Patton's Lane</b>                  Councillor McRandal reported that he has asked for a response on Patton's Lane.</p>



	David Shivers informed the meeting that he has been in touch with Niall McVitty DfI and hopes that this work will be completed in early autumn.
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Update on Covid Recovery and Revitalisation Funding-David Shivers-Urban Development Manager ANDBC</b>
	<p>David Shivers provided an update as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business Adaptation and Improvement Grant Scheme</b> – The scheme is now closed and Letters of Offer totalling approx. £91,000 of grant funding had been issued.</li> <li>• <b>Cycling Infrastructure</b> – the cycling infrastructure was due to arrive this week and would be installed at various locations in the borough over the next 2-3 months.</li> <li>• <b>Subway scheme</b> - complete</li> </ul>
<b>Item 7</b>	<b>Update from DfC</b>
	No update available as DfC had registered apologies
<b>Item 8</b>	<b>Update on Masterplan-David Shivers - Urban Development Manager ANDBC</b>
	<p>David Shivers announced that the tender process was currently in progress, and he would update the group when this goes out to Tender.</p> <p>Robin Masefield asked if the choice of selected consultants would have to be signed off on.</p> <p>David Shivers explained that he and ANDBC's corporate communications team were considering holding an evening for TAG members to attend and have an informal public chat regarding the Masterplan, possibly towards the end of the summer, to allow greater engagement on the matter and would keep the members updated on this matter.</p>
<b>Item 9</b>	<b>Update on Covering, Upper Hibernia Street- David Shivers -Urban Development Manager ANDBC</b>
	David Shivers highlighted that there have been issues around planning with this. He is hoping to list the update for next month's planning committee meeting and stated that a consultant has been put in place to deliver this project.

<b>Action</b>	David Shivers also said that work on the project was on track to ensure the September deadline is reached he added if there were any further updates an email would be sent to the group.
<b>Item 10</b>	<b>Future use of Queens Leisure Complex</b>  - <b>*In confidence*</b>
<b>Item 11</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
<b>Action</b>	David Shivers was at the launch of the Holywood Chamber's new drone footage website and recommended the site to all Members. He expressed his hopes that Lesley Waite could be contacted to deliver a review of this website at the group's next meeting.
<b>Action</b>	Robin Masefield asked if there was any further information about a hydrogen facility at Kinnegar.  David Shivers responded that if there was any update on this, Brian Dorrian could bring it to the group's next meeting.
<b>Action</b>	Councillor McRandal questioned whether lower than usual attendances to this meeting of late had been due to its time.  David Shivers stated that if council restrictions are lifted, the group would possibly revert to face-to-face meetings and if there was any change in current council regulations, he would let the group know.
<b>Item 12</b>	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>
	Date and Time of next meeting TBC
<b>Item 13</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
	The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 4:53pm.



**Ards and  
North Down**  
Borough Council

<b>Newtownards Town Advisory Group</b>		
<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>
4PM	<b>WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022</b>	<b>Via Zoom</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Councillor Richard Smart - Chair Alderman Stephen McIlveen Alderman Alan McDowell Derek Wright - Chamber Representative Ian Foster - Chamber Representative Leigh Nelson - Chamber Representative Pam Williamson - Community Representative Brian Dorrian - Head of Regeneration, ANDBC David Shivers - Urban Development Manager, ANDBC Carly McMullan - Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Sonia Tomblin - Assistant Regeneration Officer, ANDBC Martin Mawhinney - Administrative Assistant, ANDBC	
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>	
	Apologies were received from:  Niall McVitty - DfC Wendy Smith - Events Manager, ANDBC Esther Millar - Youth Representative Tracy McVea - Community Representative  No Declarations of Interest were received.	

<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Events Update - Wendy Smith ANDBC</b>
	Wendy Smith sent her apologies to the group and David Shivers added she would be attending the September meeting to discuss arrangements for Christmas events.
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting – Newtownards Town Advisory Group Meeting</b>
	<i>Previously Circulated: Newtownards TAG minutes 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 2022.</i>  It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of proceedings.
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Update on outstanding actions - David Shivers – Urban Development Manager ANDBC</b>
	<p><b>Active Travel</b></p> <p>Meeting will take place with DfI and Translink on 21/06/22 at 10am.</p> <p>Alderman McIlveen stated the public consultation on Park and Ride was to close on 17/06/2022. He said it was important the response to this was wide as possible, given its impact on the town centre.</p> <p><b>Dim Lighting along Frances Street</b></p> <p>David Shivers advised that an email has been sent to DfI, awaiting a response.</p>
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Update on Conway Square Cover - David Shivers - Urban Development Manager ANDBC</b>
	David Shivers said that Council has granted approval to appoint Hall McKnight to proceed with the three outstanding elements for this project. They will carry out a feasibility study regarding covering the square to determine value for money, the project then will move into the detailed designs phase, and finally a planning application will be lodged.

	<p>Brian Dorrian suggested an economic appraisal would be a positive way to show people who look after businesses in the area how the £1M of funding would be spent.</p> <p>David Shivers reported to the group that Council would ask Hall McKnight to engage in dialogue with traders affected by the covering, then conduct a wider consultation.</p> <p>The Chair commented that this stage of the process was absolutely business focused.</p> <p>Alderman Alan McDowell suggested that a clear, rather than solid, covering be used to ensure light was still allowed to get through to the square, and David Shivers replied that any concerns could be raised at the detailed designs stage of the process.</p>
<p><b>Item 7</b></p>	<p><b>Conway Square Seating Update-David Shivers-Urban Development Manager ANDBC</b></p>
	<p><i>Drawings previously circulated.</i></p> <p>Derek Wright expressed his disappointment at the new design and the reduction in seating. He went on to say that the square is a focal point in the Town and is used by the community. Ian Foster agreed and stated the Square is an Iconic area in Newtownards and the new design was a 'disgrace' and an 'insult'.</p> <p>Councillor McDowell said he was underwhelmed and agreed that the square should be a focal point. Leigh Nelson was also disappointed and stated that the plan was not as originally agreed. Councillor McIlveen agreed with the Chamber's comments and asked if it was possible to revisit the original scheme and speak to the cleansing department.</p> <p>David Shivers stated that he appreciated the members' disappointment regarding the rejection of the scheme and explained that internal consultation is necessary on any project.</p> <p>Councillor Smart raised concerns regarding the Market traders stating they would not like the space restricted, Leigh Nelson responded that she had spoken to them and does not believe this will be an issue.</p> <p>Leigh Nelson stated that the second amended scheme was the one she would like brought forward.</p>

<b>Action</b>	<p>David Shivers expressed concerns regarding the budget for this and explained that the budget cannot be carried over. Leigh Nelson stated that a compromise was necessary.</p> <p>Brian Dorrian agreed he would raise this immediately to Director level and ask for a meeting with the Director and David Lyndsey. Any outcomes from the meeting will be relayed to the Steering Group would be notified of the outcome.</p> <p>Alderman McDowell stated that if this issue is not resolved a Notice of Motion will be put forward.</p>
<b>Item 8</b>	<b>Update on Covid Recovery and Revitalisation Funding - David Shivers Urban Development Manager ANDBC</b>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business Adaptation and Improvement Grant Scheme</b> – The scheme is now closed and approx. £140,219 of grant funding had been issued.</li> <li>• <b>Cycling Infrastructure</b> – the cycling infrastructure was due to arrive this week and would be installed at various locations in the borough over the next 2-3 months.</li> <li>• <b>Parklets</b> – Four parklets are in the planning process, three of which are going through planning this month. David Shivers stated once he has a timetable for these, he will share with members.</li> </ul>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Floral Sculptures-</b> David Shivers says he will check with Wendy Smith to make sure it comes back into the town as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Item 9</b>	<b>Proposed Pedestrianisation of Meeting House Lane</b>
	<p>Brian Dorrian explained this issue was raised at a meeting of the Chamber and was brought before the Town Advisory Group to discuss any thoughts on how to proceed with it.</p> <p>Derek Wright highlighted there had been problems with road users driving down this lane, and that shop owners in the area would be more than happy to see it pedestrianised. He suggested that small midweek market stalls, such as those seen in some European cities would be a</p>

<p><b>Action</b></p>	<p>welcome addition, but the lane would need to be pedestrianised to make this work.</p> <p>Leigh Nelson stated she felt the no entry sign at the lane was too high, and with many people unable to see it, she thought it was only a matter of time before a serious accident occurred there.</p> <p>Alderman McDowell declared his support for the pedestrianisation of Meeting House Lane, adding that he would like to see less parking (for example, by shop owners) on Conway Square. He asked what the point of pedestrianisation was if it was not executed fully.</p> <p>Alderman McIlveen said he too was supportive of the pedestrianisation of the lane, stating that he particularly favoured the idea of displaying art in that area, such as the umbrella lights seen near to the Duke of York bar in Belfast, and also the concept of a midweek market on the lane. He added he would like to see more shop fronts develop naturally with increased footfall in the area.</p> <p>Derek Wright raised his concern that traffic wardens cannot enforce illegal parking on Conway Square and said that he had the Chamber had written to every business owner in the area asking them to refrain from parking there. He added that the Chamber were seeking help from Council to give traffic wardens the authority to enforce this.</p> <p>Ian Foster reflected the issue of parking on Conway Square was a longstanding one.</p> <p>The Chair expressed his support for the idea of umbrella lights being displayed on Meeting House Lane.</p> <p>Leigh Nelson said that as a previous owner of a business in the Meeting House Lane area, she had experienced lorries colliding with her building on more than one occasion, and called for legislation which would help prevent such incidents from occurring in future.</p> <p>Brian Dorrian told the group he would commence negotiations on the matter with DfI and ask for an abandonment notice. He said he would seek to get Council to agree that it writes to DFI.</p> <p>Proposed: Alderman McIlveen Seconded: Alderman McDowell</p>
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<b>Item 10</b>	<b>Abandonment of Adopted Road - Conway Square</b>
	<p>Brian Dorrian stated this matter has been an issue since it was raised at a Public Realm meeting in 2011. He told the group he had received correspondence in this area from Colin Pentland, whose predecessor Stanley Lamb has now retired.</p> <p>Brian Dorrian said he felt there should be no parking in the square, but as it is still an adopted road, there is some ambiguity around this. He said as soon as he receives anything back from David Brown Licensing and Regulatory Services Manager he will report back to the group, adding that if there is no movement on the matter, a more formal approach, such as a Notice of Motion, may need to be taken.</p> <p>The Chair asked if Colin Pentland could be invited to the group's next meeting to provide a timetable of work in the area.</p>
<b>Item 11</b>	<b>Update from DfC</b>
	No representative from DfC was present at the meeting.
<b>Item 12</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	<p><b>Masterplan</b> David Shivers told the group that the Masterplan is going out to tender in July, and that Council would be inviting TAG members to a pre-consultation drop-in session towards the end of August .</p> <p><b>Action</b> Derek Wright congratulated the group for their work and expressed his wish for Newtownards to be a progressive town.</p>
<b>Item 13</b>	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>
<b>Action</b>	The next meeting would take place in around three months' time, the date was to be confirmed. David Shivers stated there may be another meeting sooner than this if there was any further consultation around Conway Square, and that members would be updated if so.
<b>Item 14</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
	The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 5.11pm



Unclassified

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## ITEM 7

## Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Regeneration
Date of Report	20 September 2022
File Reference	RDP14
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Devolution of Regeneration Powers
Attachments	None

At the meeting of Council held on 27 April 2022 the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

*“That this Council recognising the potential difference we could make to the lives of residents and businesses throughout our Borough if we were to have full responsibility for a Regeneration budget as envisaged in the Review of Public Administration - does write to the Minister for Communities requesting that they undertake to devolve such powers to Local Councils within the period of the new Assembly Mandate. And further, that Officers are tasked to bring back a report outlining a programme of engagement with other Councils, SOLACE, and NILGA to present a united campaign to secure the Minister’s support.”*

It should be reiterated that following the formation of the new Councils in 2015 the transfer of this function was deferred and subsequently removed from the transferring functions. It can be highlighted that at present most of the physical regeneration projects are being led by local Councils, funded by various Departments such as the Covid 19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme and the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme. In both these Programmes, Councils are best placed to ascertain the needs within their areas and to develop plans to address them.

Unclassified

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The Partnership Panel, which includes a Councillor representative from each Council, NILGA office bearers and Executive Ministers, has been exploring the potential future transfer of regeneration powers to Councils. Recent correspondence from NILGA to SOLACE confirms that progress has been made in this regard, with the DfC Minister agreeing at the August Partnership Panel that Local Government and Central Government could meet to further explore the potential scope of a future transfer of regeneration powers to Councils. This was particularly welcome given that the Communities Minister in 2016 wrote to Councils saying the transfer could not progress as there was no political consensus on the issue.

Local government regionally will now meet to discuss how to progress this with momentum and further updates will be brought to Council in due course.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council:

- (a) continue to support NILGA and SOLACE and the work being undertaken through the Partnership Panel to explore the potential scope of a future transfer to regeneration powers to Councils and;
- (b) writes to the Minister for Communities welcoming the recent discussions and actions being undertaken as above and once again setting out the case that the Regeneration powers should be devolved to local government, as was previously agreed, with the relevant budget.

Unclassified

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## ITEM 8

**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	6 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	23 August 2022
File Reference	TO/TD15
Legislation	Local Government Act 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other x If other, please add comment below: Evaluation Report
Subject	Tourism Performance Report for Quarter 1, 2022/2023
Attachments	none

**Context**

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlines 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 2022)
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2022)

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

Unclassified

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**Reporting approach**

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a quarterly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 1 (Q1)	April – June	September
Q2	July – September	December
Q3	October – December	March
Q4	January - March	June

The report for Quarter 1 2022-23 is attached.

**Key points to note:**

- Staffing has remained problematic in season to date. Covid positive cases in front-line services has reduced Visitor Information Centre (VIC) staff on occasions and the casual list is not as extensive as previous years. However, a 4-day seconded post will return to the VIC in July which should assist some pressures. Recruitment to fulfil the tourism marketing vacancy has been underway and Marketing aim to have the undergraduate student placement in post in September.
- An appetite for attendance at outdoor events is returning but weather has proved problematic early in the season. Visitor spend at events is reduced.
- One tourism grant recipient decided not to proceed with their letter of offer
- Lead times for bookings have shortened in the tourism sector.
- Local Information Office (Pier 36) is now a Tourist Information Point displaying literature on the region. This change is due to increased demands across their expanded business.

**Key achievements:**

- Completion of OCN Level 2 Event Management for event grant recipients
- Delivery of 4 tourism events – May Day, RSPBNI Pipe Bands, Sea Bangor/Platinum Jubilee, Comber Earlies Food Festival with overall customer satisfaction levels at 93.5% to date and good attendee numbers.
- Walks and tours programme ahead of target, delivering 10 to date, 70% ticket sales and 26% out of borough attendees.
- Bookable Experience programme ahead of target, 9 experiences delivered to date with 82% ticket sales and 39% out of borough attendees.
- Three funding programmes fully complete TNI, DAERA and KNIB in relation to experience/sustainable experience product development. Total of circa £150k grants levered supporting 13 local businesses.
- Two trade shows attended by TASTE AND to date, Balmoral Show and the Game Fair. At Balmoral, the Council had the largest council food and drink footprint. 9 awards have been awarded to local food business in season to date.
- Ballywalter, Groomsport, Cloughey and Millisle retained their Seaside Awards for quality managed beaches.

## Unclassified

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- Tourism Social media audience has grown by 18% in this quarter, and appealing marketing content continues to support this growth of visibility on digital channels.
- A fully integrated digital led marketing approach to campaigns is proving to be very successful. Evaluation of the spring 'Make it Yours' destination awareness campaign evaluation showed that it reached 4 million online impressions and covered 77 out of home advertising locations across NI.

**Emerging issues:**

- Staffing is a continuing issue and impacts VIC service opening/outreach.
- Securement of businesses in both experience and event programmes remains challenging and will likely continue.
- Cost of living impact on ticket sales and budget for programming

**Action to be taken:**

- Progress final recruitment for outstanding vacant posts and keep options under review for VIC staffing.
- Continue to work closely with businesses and experience providers within the development/delivery of experiences/events.
- The Events service to include contingency plans regarding changeable weather patterns in events management plans.
- Ticket pricing to be kept under review

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council note the report.
















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## Quarterly Performance Report - Tourism

Generated on: 22 August 2022

Last Update Q1 2022/23

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	Develop Sustainability Action Plan	1	1
	% spend against budget	94.8%	100%
	% customer satisfaction at events	93.5%	85%
	% staff attendance	95.64%	95%
	No of event organisers and volunteers receiving support/training (cumulative)	6	5
	Borough Marketing Strategy – No of campaigns (cumulative)	1	1
	Increase VAND social media audience by 10% annually	18%	2.5%
	Borough Marketing Strategy – No of PR pieces	6	2
	Borough Marketing Strategy – No. of Blogs	6	2
	% Out of Borough Visitors on Experience Walks and Tours	26%	10%
	No. of Experience Walks and Tours (cumulative)	13	10
	% of Out of Borough sales of bookable Experiences	39%	35%
	% of Out of Borough visitors on Taste of AND Food Tours/showcases	33%	33%
	Number of attendees to grant assisted events	2,100	5,620
	Average engagement rates from e-zine to tourism trade and consumer database	50%	25%

Unclassified

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	% of Out of Borough Visitors attending events	36.75%	20%
	% of Ex NI Visitors attending events	2.25%	1%
	Event Visitor spend per attendee	£12.99	£16.00
	Number of attendees at Tourism events (cumulative)	71,000	50,000

Unclassified

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## ITEM 9

## Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development Committee
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	08 August 2022
File Reference	170871
Legislation	n/a
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: Evaluation report
Subject	Visit Belfast 12 Month Overview 2021/22
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Overview Visual Examples of Visit Belfast 2021/22 SLA activity

**Background**

Ards and North Down Borough Council has an annual partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place with Visit Belfast. 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.
- For Visit Belfast 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 Appendix1 is an overview of visual examples of the 2021/22 SLA.



Unclassified

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### **Belfast Plus**

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

This regional partner promotion ensures a dedicated promotion off and online for Ards and North Down, promoting key campaigns, specific activities, trails, itineraries, and events etc. across digital and print platforms. A high level of coverage for Ards and North Down has been maintained throughout the 2021/22 SLA period, and a significant dial up of digital channels ensured that Ards and North Down remained at the forefront of people's minds during this initial Covid-19 recovery phase. This SLA showcases Ards and North Down campaigns and Borough tourism activity combined with strong visitor servicing support across tourist arrival points including the Visit Belfast Welcome Centre (VBWC) opposite City Hall and both main NI airports. Visit Belfast works in collaboration with ANDBC tourism team to amplify the promotion of AND as an appealing tourism destination through the strong reach of their robust trade network and large consumer databases.

Being promoted as part of the Belfast region under the Belfast Plus brand (along with Lisburn Castlereagh) is a key strength for the continued promotion of the borough. During the Covid-19 pandemic and initial recovery, Visit Belfast has proactively driven SLA activity and adapted messaging in line with travel ramping back up to pre-Covid levels. With Tourism Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland consumer sentiment surveys showing that visitors likely to travel, continue to seek open spaces and outdoor activities that are easily accessible from the city centre, this SLA with Visit Belfast remains critical to supporting and promoting AND's tourism and hospitality businesses as widely as possible to potential visitors.

### **Management and opportunities**

Regular meetings, email correspondence and calls are in place between the Visit Belfast team and Ards and North Down tourism and marketing officers, to review and maximise all SLA promotional activity and new opportunities. As one of only two local authorities in this partnership, Ards and North Down is at a significant advantage in presenting the borough to international visitors. This strong partnership ensures that all Ards and North Down tourism campaigns, programmes and events are widely promoted throughout the year.

### **Summary of SLA 2021/22 activity**

#### **Digital - Web, Social, Email Marketing**

Ards and North Down capitalised on a significant upscaling of presence across Visit Belfast's digital channels. Content was featured on [belfastplus.com](http://belfastplus.com) dedicated web pages including experiences and What's On information. [Visitbelfast.com](http://visitbelfast.com) included 21 Ards and North Down location listings and the borough was prominently featured in 40 blogs (an increase of 17% on prior year) including staycation guides, day trips, virtual visits, family things to do, road trips, walks, and foodie inspiration. As events returned, the Visit Belfast SLA ensured that things to do in the borough gained strong promotional presence with 56 'What's On' listings during the period.

Unclassified

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Ards and North Down is also strongly presented in Visit Belfast's 'What's On' e-zines with over 175k emails sent to 25k subscribers including 14 Ards and North Down features including key events in the Borough.

Ards and North Down content was promoted throughout the period to Visit Belfast's large social media audience (Facebook 120k, Twitter 90k, Instagram 55k followers) while also gaining exposure for Visit-Ards and North Down channels through links and shares.

### **Promotional Literature**

Ards and North Down also gained promotional exposure with content featured in various print publications. This included content featuring in a Belfast Plus print booklet, Visit Belfast Welcome Centre map, and a Belfast and City Region guide including a 4-page section in the body of content for promotion of Ards and North Down Borough Council attractions, products and experiences. Visit Belfast's main digital Out-of-State Visitor Guide also includes city and region approach featuring Ards and North Down.

### **Prominence for Ards and North Down in Welcome Centre Locations**

Belfast Plus videos and imagery are played on the 16-screen video wall and information desks, with 45 Ards and North Down products featuring prominently on self-serve screens. 25,800 pieces of literature featuring Ards and North Down Borough Council have been racked across Visit Belfast sites.

A Belfast Plus promotional campaign was developed at George Best Belfast City Airport with graphics featuring Ards and North Down displayed at the Arrivals visitor booth.

City centre prime promotional locations were maximised through the SLA period. AND secured eight weeks of promotion for five campaigns in VBWC Event Island featured Visit-AND's 'We're Ready To Welcome You' Campaign (June '21), and Tide & Turf / Taste AND-Festival (Sept/Oct '21), Viking Festival, 'Make it Yours' Spring Destination awareness Campaign (March '22) and Experience AND throughout the year. These five campaigns were also featured on VBWC's Front Window Digital Screen over a 3-month promotional period gaining exposure at a prime city centre advertising site.

### **Industry engagement programme**

Ards and North Down tourism development team presented the borough's tourism offering during four virtual / face-to-face industry engagement events in June, September, October, and March. Ards and North Down was also featured in 12 x weekly Concierge e-zines promoting what's on in the borough.

Visit Belfast arranged 179 buyer engagements (combination of virtual and face-to-face events) with Ards and North Down featured in their travel trade presentation. Visit Belfast attended World Travel Market the leading global tourism trade event, which returned as a face-to-face event for the first time since the pandemic hit. Two representatives from Ards and North Down attended Visit Belfast's client reception promoting the borough's tourism offering to 13 tour operators.

Unclassified

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**Familiarisation Trips**

Visit Belfast hosted seven FAM trips with industry editors and freelance writers and featured three press releases which promoted Ards and North Down locations during 21/22. In addition, Executive Global Tours visited Culloden Hotel and Royal Belfast Golf Club with Visit Belfast in July 2021. On 24 March 2022, 24 industry and Visitor Information Centre network representatives attended a familiarisation trip around the borough including a visit to Ballycopeland Windmill. Positive evaluation results showed that all attendees would be happy to recommend the sites visited.

**Meetings and Conference Sector**

The borough was also included in Visit Belfast's promotion at six key meetings and conference tourism exhibitions during the SLA period.

942 buyer engagements were completed (face-to-face and via virtual meetings) including workshops, tradeshow, exhibition, and site visits promoting products and experiences to new and existing event organisers, agencies, and corporates, associations where relevant.

**Visitor Servicing**

Visit Belfast handled 16,686 enquiries about the borough across welcome centres and visitor entry points during the SLA period. Imagery was updated to latest content to visually represent Ards and North Down on self-serve touch screens in the welcome centre ensuring that Ards and North Down was front of mind for visitors.

**Value of membership and other contributions**

Throughout 2021/22 Visit Belfast has proven to be a critical partner for Ards and North Down Borough Council, providing vital visitor servicing support and training, and year-round enhanced promotional exposure for the borough's tourism offering.

In addition to the local authority membership, the Tourism service secures primary promotional space in the Belfast Welcome Centre and George Best Belfast City Airport at a cost of £6,000 and £5,000 respectively per annum. When these sums are combined with the annual membership, the Council is leveraging incremental promotional activity valued at £20,000 per annum.

Through the successful partnership, Ards and North Down Borough Council capitalises on a full range of benefits to a wider consumer and trade audience which the Council on its own could not achieve.

In November 2022, Council approved the renewal of the Visit Belfast Service Level Agreement for two years 2022/23 and 2023/24, at £30,000 per annum, subject to the Rates setting process. The strong partnership approach ensures that Ards and North Down destination campaigns and event programme promotion reaches a large international visitor audience, which is critical to continue to keep Ards and North Down tourism front of mind as international competition for visitors increases post pandemic.

Unclassified

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**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

08.08.2022

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Ards and  
North Down  
Borough Council

# Appendix 1

## Visit Belfast Promotional Activity

### Overview Visual Examples Summary 2021/22 SLA



# Visit Belfast AND SLA

## Key Digital Channels Promotional Activity

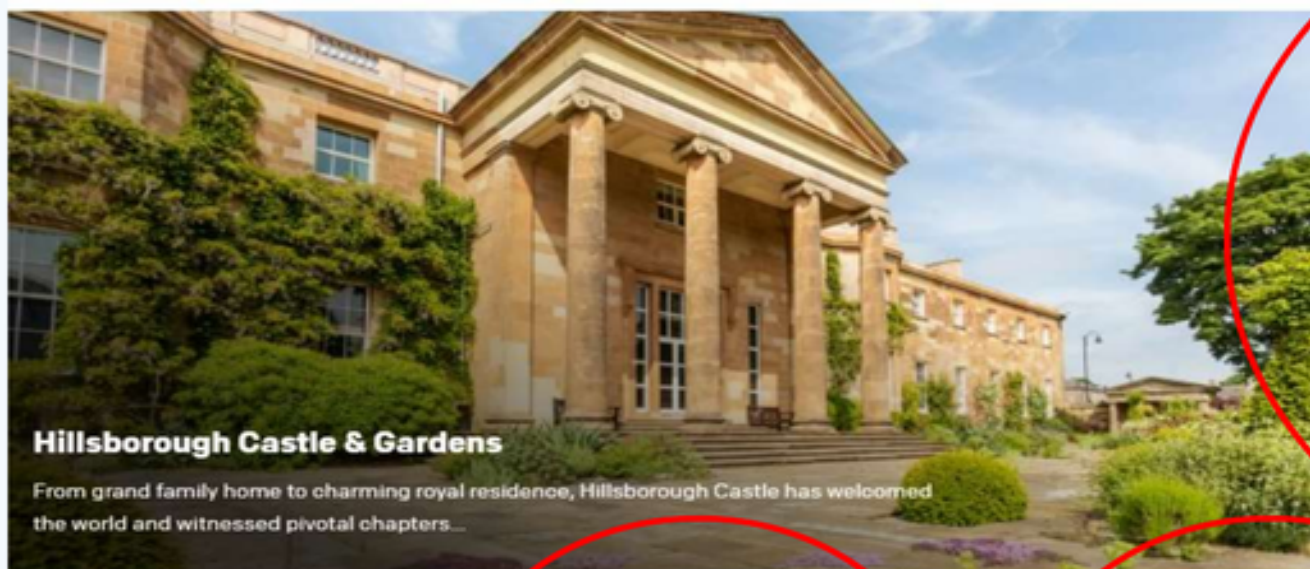
Ards and North Down Borough Council  
 www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk



# Web Dedicated City Region Promotion

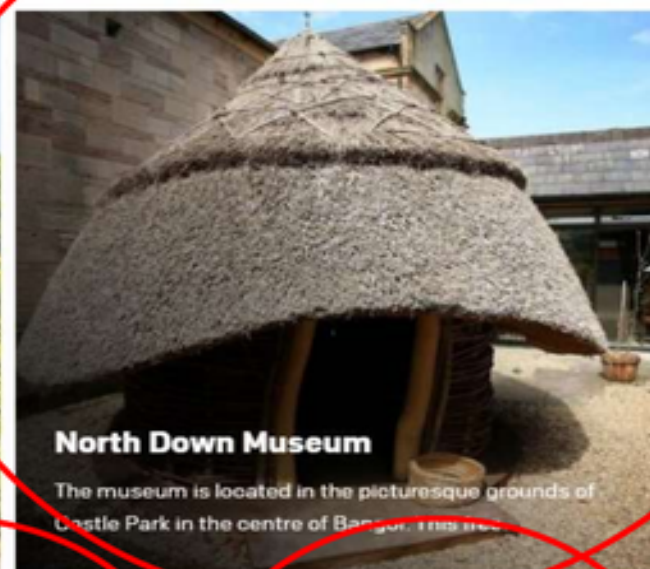
AND tourism featured **56** What's on events and **21** product listings

Recommended in Belfast Plus



**Hillsborough Castle & Gardens**

From grand family home to charming royal residence, Hillsborough Castle has welcomed the world and witnessed pivotal chapters...



**North Down Museum**

The museum is located in the picturesque grounds of Castle Park in the centre of Bangor. The museum...



**We Are Vertigo**



**Castle Espie Wildfowl & Wetlands Centre**



**Ulster Folk Museum**



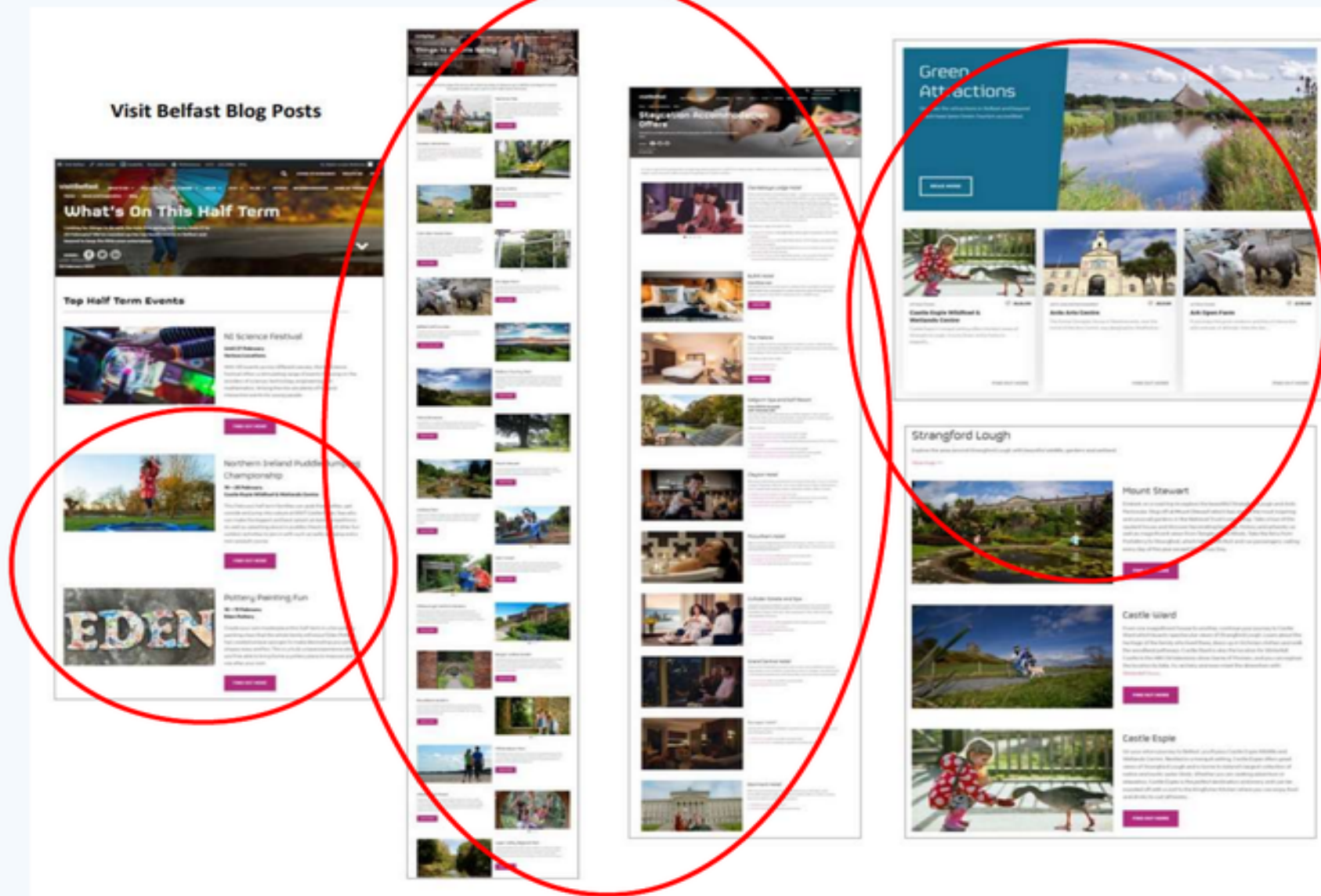
**Mount Stewart**



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



# Web Dedicated City Region Promotion AND tourism featured in 40 blogs





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



## Web Content visitbelfast.com – Dedicated Itineraries

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'Belfast Plus' section of the visitbelfast.com website. A red circle highlights the 'Explore Belfast Plus' section, which features three itinerary cards. Each card includes a video thumbnail, a title, a short description, and a 'FIND OUT MORE' button.

**Explore Belfast Plus**

**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.

**Day Trip to Ards and North Down**  
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.

**Day Trip to Lisburn and Castlereagh**  
The Lisburn and Castlereagh area lies 6-9 miles from Belfast. Discover historic villages, walks and fun activities to suit everyone!

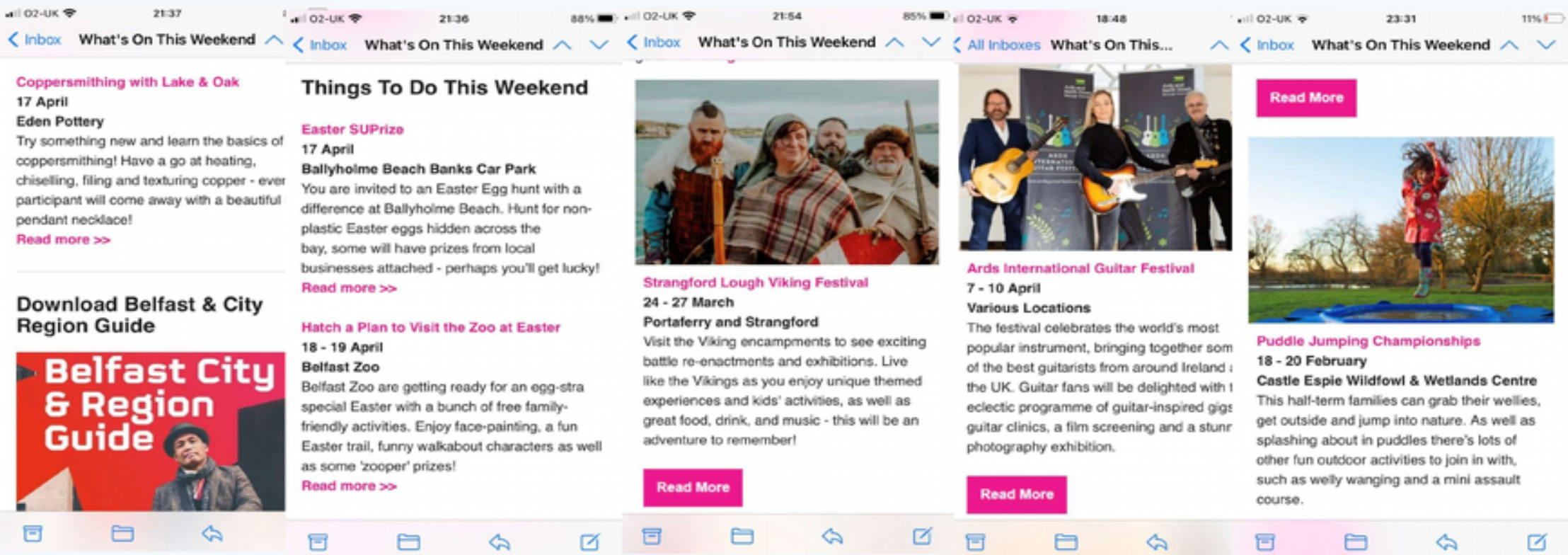
This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience. [Learn more](#)

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



# Visit Belfast Consumer E-zines Featuring AND

Over 175k emails sent to 25k subscribers including 14 Ards and North Down features



Download Belfast & City Region Guide



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



# Visit Belfast Social Media Content Featuring AND

Large social media audience reach (Facebook 120k, Twitter 90k, Instagram 55k fwr)

**#BelfastPlus Social Media activity**

**Visit Belfast** @VisitBelfast May 24  
They say that absence makes the heart grow fonder and after all this time apart @ANDborough is ready to welcome you back! Watch the video >>  
[youtube.com/watch?v=GQgXVD...](https://youtube.com/watch?v=GQgXVD...)

#BelfastPlus

**Visit Belfast** @VisitBelfast Aug 18  
Explore @ANDborough this August with a tasty programme of events where you can discover the finest and freshest ingredients, sourced within the area! Find out more >>  
[vstbelfast.com/Taste-AND](https://vstbelfast.com/Taste-AND)

#BelfastPlus

**Visit Belfast** Published by Jerry Dunn · 7 November 2021 ·  
Embrace the natural landscapes and seascapes of Ards and North Down as you journey along 115 miles of scenic coastline, from the edge of Belfast Lough, on to the Ards Peninsula and Strangford Lough. Find out more >>  
[vstbelfast.com/daytrip-to-and](https://vstbelfast.com/daytrip-to-and)  
#BelfastPlus

**Visit Belfast** Published by VisitBelfast · 22 March at 14:00 ·  
Celebrate your inner Viking! The Ards and North Down Borough Council Strangford Lough Viking Festival starts tomorrow! From 24 - 27 March, live like the Vikings as you enjoy unique themed experiences, kids activities as well as great food, drink, and music!  
See what's on >> [vstbelfast.com/strangford-lough-viking-festival](https://vstbelfast.com/strangford-lough-viking-festival)

Embrace your inner Viking in Portaferry and Strangford this spring!  
• Viking experiences • Family fun • Great food and drink  
And much more!

[www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk) [vstbelfast.com](https://vstbelfast.com)

**Visit Belfast** 8 Nov 2021 ·  
Who's spotted the new street art at Donaghadee Harbour?!

**Visit Belfast** 24 April at 11:00 ·  
Ards and North Down Borough Council is bursting with unique things to do this Spring! Try fun activities on the water, join the coastal kids trail or become a Ranger for the day 🦘  
See what's on >> [vstbelfast.com/ards-north-down-experiences](https://vstbelfast.com/ards-north-down-experiences)

Visit Ards and North Down and 4 others

Examples



# 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

60k print run, digital and social media promotion (included in consumer ezines)



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



# Visit Belfast Visitor Guide - City Region Features

## Belfast Visitor Guide 21/22

### City Region

You can easily access both countryside and sea-shore within a short drive of Belfast to enjoy a variety of exciting attractions, historic towns of interest, informative tours, outdoor activities and exciting scenery. [belfastcityregion.com](http://belfastcityregion.com)

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#### LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH

**What's on** Lisburn and Castlereagh offer a wide range of activities, from shopping and leisure to family-friendly events. Discover the hills with a host of family-friendly walks from Lisburn to Donaghadee or experience the city's rich heritage in historic villages such as Rathfriland and Rath.

**Discover the history** Explore the fascinating historical sites and landmarks in Lisburn and Castlereagh, from the ruins of the Lisburn Castle to the remains of the Donaghadee Fort.

**Shop and Eat** Whether you're a seasoned foodie or want to grab a bite, you'll find our vibrant restaurants, pubs and cafes. From the historic Rathfriland Inn to the modern Donaghadee Fort, there's something for everyone.

**Visit Lisburn and Castlereagh** [www.visitlisburnandcastlereagh.com](http://www.visitlisburnandcastlereagh.com)

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#### DISCOVER ARDS AND NORTH DOWN

**What's on** Discover the beautiful coastline of Ards and North Down, from the historic ruins of the Ards Fort to the stunning views from the North Down Hills.

**Discover the history** Explore the fascinating historical sites and landmarks in Ards and North Down, from the ruins of the Ards Fort to the remains of the North Down Hills.

**Shop and Eat** Whether you're a seasoned foodie or want to grab a bite, you'll find our vibrant restaurants, pubs and cafes. From the historic Ards Fort to the modern North Down Hills, there's something for everyone.

**Visit Ards and North Down** [www.visitardsandnorthdown.com](http://www.visitardsandnorthdown.com)

### FAMILY FUN

There's nothing better than spending time with the family in the City Region. From the historic ruins of the Ards Fort to the stunning views from the North Down Hills, there's something for everyone.

**Discover the history** Explore the fascinating historical sites and landmarks in the City Region, from the ruins of the Ards Fort to the remains of the North Down Hills.

**Shop and Eat** Whether you're a seasoned foodie or want to grab a bite, you'll find our vibrant restaurants, pubs and cafes. From the historic Ards Fort to the modern North Down Hills, there's something for everyone.

**Visit the City Region** [www.visitbelfastcityregion.com](http://www.visitbelfastcityregion.com)

### A Taste of Belfast Region

Nothing is better than a good meal. In the City Region, you'll find a wide range of dining options, from the historic Rathfriland Inn to the modern Donaghadee Fort. From the historic Ards Fort to the modern North Down Hills, there's something for everyone.

**Discover the history** Explore the fascinating historical sites and landmarks in the City Region, from the ruins of the Ards Fort to the remains of the North Down Hills.

**Shop and Eat** Whether you're a seasoned foodie or want to grab a bite, you'll find our vibrant restaurants, pubs and cafes. From the historic Ards Fort to the modern North Down Hills, there's something for everyone.

**Visit the City Region** [www.visitbelfastcityregion.com](http://www.visitbelfastcityregion.com)



# Visit Belfast AND SLA

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

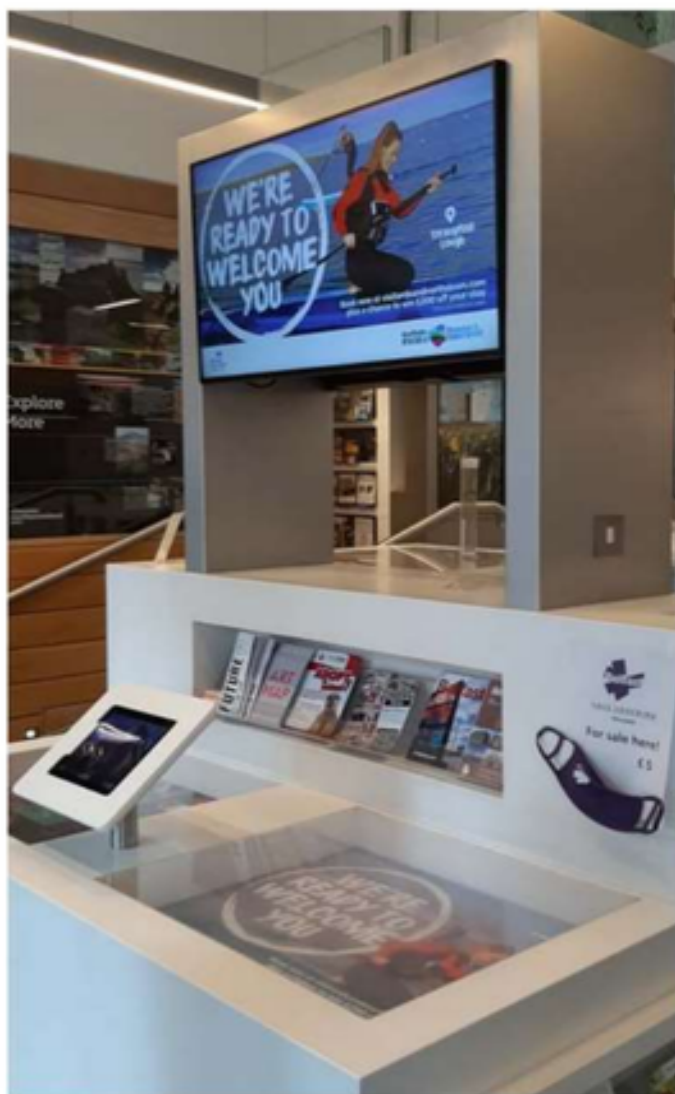
Key campaigns gain prominent promotion

Ards and North Down Borough Council  
[www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](http://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)



# Visit Belfast – City Centre Welcome Visitor Centre

AND Staycation Covid Recovery campaign May 22 –promotion in Belfast City Centre





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# Visit Belfast – City Centre Welcome Visitor Centre

AND Spring 22 Destination awareness campaign –promotion in Belfast City Centre

Visit Belfast - External Pod Inserts



Ards and North Down Borough Council  
[www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](http://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)



# Visit Belfast – City Centre Welcome Visitor Centre

Taste AND Autumn 21 Food Festival – 1 month promotion in Belfast City Centre



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# Visit Belfast – City Centre Welcome Visitor Centre

AND Tourism Development campaigns –promotion in Belfast City Centre





# Visit Belfast AND SLA

Familiarization trips ensure Ards and North Down is promoted to key group travel trade and tourism media.

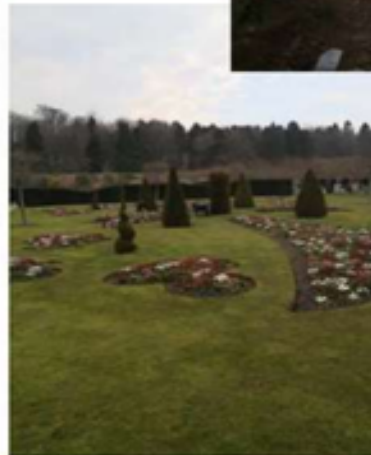
Ards and North Down Borough Council  
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# Visit Belfast Industry and Visitor Information

FAM trip March 22

Visit Belfast Industry & Visitor Information Network Fam Trip







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## ITEM 10

## Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	26 August 2022
File Reference	TO:EV64
Legislation	n/a
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: Evaluation Report
Subject	Economic Impact Assessment of Pipe Band Championship in Castle Park, Bangor, May 2022
Attachments	

**Background**

In October 2018, in response to a request from Council, the Council received a report providing an evaluation and costs for holding the 2019 County Down Pipe Band Championship at either Castle Park in Bangor, or a venue in Newtownards (the airfield at Newtownards Airport was the confirmed location on 18 May). Subsequently, Council agreed to bid to hold the Championship at Newtownards and to rotate back to Bangor in 2020, with Economic Impact Assessments (EIAs) to be undertaken at each event.

The Newtownards EIA results were presented to Council in September 2019. Unfortunately, due to government Covid restrictions the event was cancelled in 2020. Further to this, the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association NI (RSPBANI) was not able to run the event under its normal 'model' in 2021. In May 2021, Council agreed that the event should be held with limited spectators in the McKee Clock Arena on 4 September 2021 and that an EIA would not be undertaken until the event could revert to the 'original' Bangor event model at Castle Park.



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The event was successfully delivered in 2022 in Castle Park, Bangor, and subsequently an EIA was undertaken by the appointed Tourism Events market research company.

It should be noted that the event is owned and organised by the RSPBANI. The Council bids for and pays RSPBANI to bring the event to the Borough. The fee to bring the event in both 2019 and 2022 was £14,000. The fee information for 2023 is not yet available.

In line with the Council's Integrated Tourism Economic Development Regeneration Strategy's (ITDRS) tourism targets, the focus for the Tourism service is to host events which have the capacity to increase visitor overnights and increase visitor spend. Therefore, both EIAs set out:

- The profile of survey respondents to both visitor and business surveys.
- The economic impact assessment of visitor spend.
- An overview of wider benefits for businesses within the town.
- Non-economic indicators such as event awareness, visitor satisfaction and suggested improvements.

#### May 2022 Event, Castle Park, Bangor

The event was held on Saturday 14 May with 32 bands participating. Spectators and competitors were estimated at circa 5,000, (similar to the 2019 event in Newtownards with 33 bands and circa 5000 attendees). In 2022, the event included Highland Dancers, Drum Majors and Pipe Bands alongside food and drink vendors all secured by the organisers.

#### Comparative Results

##### Visitors

	2019 Newtownards Event	2022 Bangor Event
Attendee numbers	5,000	5,000
Visitors surveyed	325	128*
% from Borough	51%^	43%
% out of Borough	41%^^	52%
% out of NI	8%	5%
Day visitor	96%	97%
Overnight visitors	4%	3%
Total visitor spend	£119,000	£83,162
Spend per visitor	£22.92	£16.63

*\*The method of surveying visitors in 2022 with the continuing impact of Covid-19 restrictions meant that face to face interviews were limited. Therefore, the methodology agreed with the market research company was to survey a portion of*

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visitors as they left the event and obtain email addresses and make contact in the days after their attendance to ensure a comprehensive spend profile was obtained.

^ Noted as Ards and the surrounding area

^^ Noted as other NI

The age of the visitors attending both the 2019 and 2022 events were similar, the majority (41% v 43%) aged 25-44. The majority of the spend at both locations was on food/drink including snacks and a sit-down meal.

As Council bid to host the event, marketing responsibility lies with RSPBANI. However, in 2019 to advertise the new venue, Council marketed the event using social media, billboards, newspaper adverts and leaflets, at an additional cost of £1,833.01. In 2022, the marketing plan consisted of social media only. Visitors to the event heard about it through social media/web (25% and 48%). 2% of respondents in 2019 were "just passing" whereas in 2022, 5% claimed the same. Other significant responses included word of mouth (51% and 28%).

Travel to the event in both locations was mostly by car (77% and 80%) with public transport in 2019 at 12% and 7% in 2022.

Suggested changes/comments on the delivery of the event were similar at both locations – more seats and improved toilet facilities. Improved parking came out at 31% in Bangor in 2022 but in 2019, only 1% commented on this (parking was available on site). Overall visitor satisfaction was very high at both locations (90% and 100%).

### Overnight stays

Unfortunately, both research exercises undertaken in 2019 and 2022 returned very limited data on overnight stays, with low numbers of those surveyed indicating that they were staying overnight. Robust comparable data on the economic impact of overnight stays is therefore not available.

### GVA and equivalent job years:

2019 Newtownards Event		2022 Bangor Event	
GVA	£88,000	GVA	£103,462.99
Job Year Equivalent	2.3 years	Job Year Equivalent	2.7 years

*It should be noted that due to a change of methodology the GVA figure for both events is not comparable.*

*Note: The GVA figure quoted relates only to visitor expenditure and does not take into consideration the Council's costs or any impact of the event on suppliers.*

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**Businesses**

In 2019, 64 businesses were surveyed, with 52 businesses surveyed in 2022.

	<b>2019 Newtownards Event</b>	<b>2022 Bangor Event</b>
Retail	36%	71%
Café/restaurant	29%	17%
Bar	8%	10%
Commercial Accommodation	19%	2%
Other (beauty, visitor attractions)	8%	nil

In both locations, 83% of businesses surveyed took no additional measures to prepare for the event. Of the remaining 17%, the additional measures included additional staff and increased opening hours.

12% of businesses in Newtownards in 2019 reported reduced footfall in the town centre though the event was only a short distance away. There was some evidence that better advertising or awareness amongst local businesses may have helped address this. 18% of businesses reported an increase in spend resulting from event spectators.

In 2022 in Bangor, 33% of the businesses surveyed reported an increase in sales whilst almost three quarters of respondents saw similar or increased footfall during the event.

When the businesses were asked what provisions they would make for future Pipe Band Championships, most businesses in 2019 responded that they would make none, 8% would consider making further use of advertising and 12% would alter their capacity in terms of employment or stock. In 2022, the same questions were asked and while 73% stated they would do nothing different, 11% said they would change the offer/include advertising and special offers, 4% would extend opening hours and 5% would employ more staff. Businesses at both locations commented that improved communication with event organisers/Council around the event would help them take advantage of the opportunities the event presents.

**Council Budget**

	<b>2019 Newtownards Event</b>	<b>2022 Bangor Event</b>
<b>Event cost</b>	£29,967	£15,363
<b>Cost per visitor</b>	£5.99	£3.07

The above event costs include the budget allocated to the 'bid' to RSPBNI which was £14,000 per annum.

The main factors for the increased budget in 2019 at Newtownards were:

1. Hire cost for the Airfield and toilets
2. Contracting a Traffic Management Company
3. Hire of use Shuttle bus from town centre
4. Additional entertainment on site.

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## 5. Marketing

The event budget allocated in the 2022/23 Rates setting process was £21,500.

Due to additional programming and infrastructure requirements, it should be noted that a budget to deliver the event in Newtownards will be higher than a budget required to deliver the event in Bangor (assuming the same venues are used). The appropriate budget would be included in the relevant business case, determined by the Council decision on its location, and subject to the Rates Setting process.

### **Potential impacts on events due to current climate**

Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted but many people still air on the side of caution and will not attend events. Latest consumer sentiment research conducted by Tourism NI (March 2021) suggests that consumers' confidence in attending outdoor events has been increasing slowly. The cost-of-living crisis and higher energy and fuel prices may have impacts on people travelling to events and for those that do attend events, may discourage interaction with retail and foodservice options on offer.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council considers the report and agrees to rotate the event in Newtownards Airfield (for 2023) subject to negotiations with the Ulster Flying Club, and Caste Park Bangor (2024) and undertakes a bid for the RSPBANI Pipe Band Annual Event, subject to the appropriate budget being allocated in the rates setting process.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	23 September 2022
File Reference	TO/VIC4
Legislation	n/a
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Cockle Row Cottages Update Report - Season 2023
Attachments	None

**Background**

In April 2022, Council approved a small programme of animation at Cockle Row Cottages June – October 2022, and that Officers continue discussions with the Ulster Scots Agency and relevant interested parties regarding the longer-term operation/use of the Cottages. Since then, the Cottages have hosted two events attracting 406 attendees. Unfortunately, rain caused 'at event set up' cancellation in July and the event in September was cancelled to observe the national mourning period of Her Majesty The Queen. An event is scheduled for Hallowe'en.

**Update**

Further to the above on-site activity, the following has occurred:

- A site visit to the Cottages by community representatives accommodated by a Council Tourism Officer.
- A series of local community meetings which have been attended by Council Community Development staff and/or Ulster Scots Agency officers, as relevant, regarding broader issues for the group and the Cottages potential.
- Ongoing support and advice provided by Community Development Officers to assist the community group become constituted.
- A local exhibition and public meeting, hosted by community representatives in early September, for those interested in preserving Groomsport heritage and becoming involved in the fabric of the village.

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- A meeting on 6 September in Groomsport with a number of representatives of the 'to be formed' 'Discover Groomsport' and the Head of Tourism and Tourism Manager
- A scheduled public meeting to launch 'Discover Groomsport' and elect trustees for its board on 9 September. This was postponed due to the passing of Her Majesty The Queen. At the time of writing the report Council Officers have not been advised of a new date for the Discover Groomsport public meeting.

At the meeting on 6 September, the Head of Tourism and the Tourism Manager advised representatives of the intended 'Discover Groomsport' that due to the uncertainty of the timeline of their forthcoming proposal, that Officers would progress with its 'normal' recruitment schedule and budget preparation. This would ensure the Cottages were resourced, subject to Rates setting, enabling them to reopen in the summer of 2023. The representatives were advised that Officers would support the group, in bringing forward a proposal (with all relevant partners) when it became constituted and was in the position to do so. The representatives were advised that there could be opportunities for the group to test/animate the Cottages should their resource be adequate this season; an opportunity which would help structure a formal proposal. It was acknowledged that this would be a 'fledgling group' and a proposal would be dependent on time and the successful constitution of the group. Any forthcoming future proposal will be brought back to Council for consideration.

The Tourism Manager has reviewed previous opening times and visitor numbers for pre Covid seasons at the Cottages. Considering the Council approved Transformation of Visitor Servicing plan to extend outreach within existing staffing/operational budgets, the following is considered appropriate opening times for the Cottages during the 2023 season. This will be monitored in season.

**Cockle Row Cottages Seasonal Visitor Information Centre, April - September 2023**

April – Sunday 9 April (Easter) – Cottages open and small-scale entertainment

May – Sunday 7 May – Cottages open and small scale entertainment

June, July and August – Cottages open Thursday to Sunday weekly 10am to 4pm with small scale entertainment each Sunday

September – Sunday EHOD

\*subject to Risk Assessment and normal Rates setting process

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council approves the above opening times for Cockle Row Cottages, subject to the normal rates setting process.

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## ITEM

**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism and Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	22 September 2022
File Reference	TO/EV105
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	AND Events and Festivals Fund 2023/24
Attachments	

**Borough Events Strategy**

Council approved the Borough Events Strategic Direction 2021-2026 (BESD) in November 2020. Within the BESD, it acknowledges that local festivals and events play a key part in delivering social, cultural, and economic outcomes. Various Council services provide grants to support festivals and events, including Community Development, Tourism and Arts.

A recommendation of the BESD is that Council should continue to support the development of the local events sector through strategic funding, training and development and advice. This support is essential to the health and vibrancy of the sector. The Strategy recommends that this support should be better structured for event organisers and progression routes are made available for event organisers to help run their events safely or for those who want their events to grow.

One of the BESD recommended actions is to 'create a new Events and Festivals Grant Scheme and to develop a resourcing plan for its delivery'. This has been named the "AND Events and Festivals Fund".

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Ideally, this fund should incorporate all events/festivals funded by the Council, which would require all budgets across all Council services supporting such events to be pooled. However, to test this concept initially on a smaller scale, it is proposed that the Events and Festivals Fund be limited to Community Development's (CD) Community Festivals Fund (circa £80,000) and the Tourism Event Grant Scheme (circa £80,000), providing a total combined budget of £160,000. The annual CD Community Festivals Fund is normally £65,000 but using savings in other CD budget headings, this budget could be increased to £80,000.

Members should note that the agreed Christmas Switch on Fund (£24,000) is not included in the Local Events and Festivals fund as this is a ring-fenced budget solely for the agreed towns and villages where the Council provides Christmas Trees.

In 2019/20 the total combined budget was £152,762 and supported 44 events/festivals applications (32 CD awards and 12 Tourism awards). In 2018/19 the total combined budget was £158,384 and supported 46 events/festivals (34 CD awards and 12 Tourism awards).

Based on the current Community Festival Fund model, the BESD recommended a 3-tier approach to support Local, Neighbourhood and Large festivals. Officers have developed a slightly modified 4-tier approach, which better reflects the monetary value of individual applications received in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The proposed scheme would be structured as follows:

**Table 1 Four-Tier Model**

<b>Festival/Event</b>	<b>Total Budget available</b>	<b>Min-Max Grant</b>
Local	£20,000	Up to £1,000
Neighbourhood	£15,000	£1001 - £4000
Medium	£35,000	£4001 - £10,000
Large	£90,000	£10,001 - £20,000

The 4-tier model does not fundamentally change the recommended in the BESD, but rather by splitting the recommended "Large" budget into "Medium" and "Large" bands, it facilitates those requesting smaller grants up to £10,000 rather than those up to £20,000.

Table 2 below sets out the high-level criteria, type and duration of the events/festivals, attendance figures and the level of support available from Council.

**Table 2 Events and Festivals Fund**

<b>AND Events and Festivals Fund</b>
<p><b>Local</b> Priority will be given to events and festivals led by a community or groups of communities Must be able to demonstrate social/cultural impact</p>



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<p>Up to £1,000 for a local one-day community festival that attracts up to 500 attending or taking part. Supported by the Council's Event Management Tool Kit* and dedicated CD case officer</p>
<p><b>Neighbourhood</b> Priority will be given to events and festivals led by a community or groups of communities Must be able to demonstrate social /cultural impact Up to a maximum of £4,000 for a one-day festival attracting between 501 - 1,000 attending or taking part. Should demonstrate engagement from neighbouring areas/towns/villages. Supported by the Council's Event Management Tool Kit and dedicated CD case officer</p>
<p><b>Medium</b> Can be led by a community or group of communities, charities or Limited Companies Must be able to demonstrate social, cultural and economic impact. From £4001 and £10,000 and attracting a minimum of 1,001 people attending or taking part, for a one day or series of events within a defined period, at least some of which must be from out-of-the Borough. Supported by the Council's Event Management tool kit, optional training and dedicated case officer.</p>
<p><b>Large</b> Can be led by a community or group of communities, charities or Limited Companies Must be able to demonstrate social, cultural and economic impact (including additional event investment) and the ability to create bed nights. From £10,001 and £20,000 and attracting a minimum of 2000 people attending or taking part, some of which must be from out-of-the Borough. Supported by the Council's Event Management Tool Kit, optional training and dedicated Tourism case officer.</p>

Currently the Council's Tourism Event Grant Scheme is advertised annually in October/November, to allow groups sufficient lead time to organise their events/festivals the following year. The formal awards are made once the budget is confirmed after the Rates setting process. The Community Development Festivals Grants are advertised in February and awards are made once the Council receives its formal Letter of Offer from the Department of Communities, which co-funds the scheme. Now that the grants schemes are being pooled, it is proposed that the Large and Medium Events and Festivals Grants (Tranche 1) be advertised in November and the small and neighbourhood grants (Tranche 2) advertised in February.

All applications received under the two Tranches will be scored by a panel of officers from both the Community Development and Tourism services. As agreed in the BESD, applications will be scored against an Impact Radar Model, which will identify if the Event or Festival has either a stronger social/cultural or economic impact. If the Event or Festival has a high

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social/cultural impact it will be supported and administered by the community team and if it has a higher economic impact, it will be supported and administered by the Tourism team. It is acknowledged and accepted some may need a joint approach.

Table 3 details the festivals in 2022-23 which applied to both the Community Development Fund and Tourism Event Grants Scheme.

**Table 3 Applicants who apply to both CD and Tourism Grants**

Festival	Organizer	CD Grant	Tourism Grant
Portaferry Gala Fest	Portaferry Gala	15,000	10,000
Sails and Sounds	Portaferry Sails and Sounds	8,800	10,000
Ards Peninsula Kite Festival	Ards Peninsula Village Partnership	4,000	4,590

The current process enables some groups to maximize funding for their event, by making applications to two or more different Council event Funds/Schemes. They can do this currently as the application can meet the different criteria set out in the Fund/Scheme. As the Council's event Funds/Schemes are open and competitive, applicants therefore risk being unsuccessful in one application, which could result in their event being unviable. By introducing the recommended 4 tier system, applicants will only make one application to the scheme under the tier which best suits their event, and overall budget requirements, thus reducing bureaucracy and administration for both the applicant and the Council. Support will be available from officers to assist groups who wish to apply to external funding streams

In August 2022, officers arranged a consultation session with those who have been recipients of previous grants (including those specifically who had applied to both Funds/Scheme). In attendance were representatives from; Portaferry Gala Festival, Portaferry Sails and Sounds, Comber Regeneration Community Partnership, Portico and Donaghadee Community Development Association to discuss the structure and process for the proposed new Fund. No significant issues were raised by the groups. For note Ards Peninsula Kite Festival were invited and had indicated attendance but unfortunately were not at the meeting.

### Support Services

Critical to the success of the single "AND Events and Festivals Fund" is the provision of the necessary support, in order to ensure all event organisers are equipped with skills/knowledge to run the event safely. To assist this the Council has established an on line toolkit, which is a valuable resource for all event organisers, irrespective of the size of their event. [\\* How To Manage Your Event toolkit](#)

In 2021, Council in partnership with South-Eastern Regional College developed a bespoke OCN Level 2 in Event Management course for 12 participants. The first programme was piloted by Council staff who are responsible for organising/running Council events and feedback from staff was used to improve the content of the course. The second cohort completing the Event Management Course was made up of event organisers in receipt of a Tourism grant. The course was reduced to 8-weeks and included the following modules; marketing, risk and health and safety, licencing, event management, environmental health and food safety.

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Although the feedback from those community and voluntary volunteers who attended the second cohort was very positive, only a limited number of volunteers are prepared to commit to the training. Those that attended felt that they benefitted most from the networking experience, learning more about other community festivals, lessons learned, problem solving and ideas generation.

Following discussions with a number of festival organisers, officers will now establish an AND Events and Festivals Forum specifically for Council's Grant aided events. It will meet up to four times annually, featuring guest speakers, case studies, training and practical advice. A Terms of Reference, including membership attendance requirements will be developed in due course.

Each successful grant applicant will also have a single point of contact (SPOC) within the Council. The SPOC will assist the organisers to complete their risk assessments, apply for use of Council land (if applicable), licencing and provide the necessary advice on how to run and market their event (see Table 4 below).

**Table 4 Events and Festivals Support**

<b>Festival</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Support</b>
Local	Attracts up to 500 people	Toolkit & CD Team
Neighbourhood	Attracts up to 1000	Toolkit & CD Team
Medium	Attracts a minimum of 1,001 people	Toolkit, offered Training, CD & Tourism Team
Large	Attracts a minimum of 2,000 people	Toolkit, Training, Tourism Team

By developing this 'support model' Council will be able to ensure support is better structured and allocated for event organisers. 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.

It is acknowledged that the AND Events and Festivals Fund will be a new approach for applicants and Council officers. The first year of implementation will be monitored by both managing services and the Fund will be subject to review.

#### **On-Line Grants System**

Further to the recommended action to develop a new Events and Festivals Grant Scheme the BESD also recommended that Council 'investigate options for the introduction of an online grant system and the administration of grants centrally'.

Through the estimates process a budget has been secured in 2022/23 to introduce an on-line grants system and once support is available through the Strategic Transformation and Efficiency Programme, this system can be procured. It is likely

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that this will be a central resource where all grants are processed with dedicated support for successful applicants provided by the relevant service.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the above and, in accordance, its previous decision to progress with a single Events and Festivals Grants Scheme as part of the approved BESD, agrees to test this concept initially as detailed in this report, subject to rate setting process.

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## ITEM 13

## Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Tourism
Date of Report	16 September 2022
File Reference	TO/TD/66
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Update
Attachments	None

**Background**

As reported to Council, June 2022, two applications were made to the Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding for two separate tourism projects. The programme required the lead applicant to be a County Council **in the Republic of Ireland**. The Scheme is in place to support the progressing of new joint investment projects by cross-border Local Authority partnerships that can link funding streams from North and South and better deliver shared regional development goals.

The two applications were:

1. A Feasibility Study for the 'Four Points of the Island'. Partner Councils include Kerry County Council (lead council), Cork and Donegal County Councils.
2. A Feasibility Study for the development of an All-Island Columban Way walking route. Partner Councils include County Carlow (lead council), Laois, Cavan, Monaghan, Meath, Kildare and Wexford County Councils, Fermanagh and Omagh, Newry, Mourne and Down District Councils and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

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In early September the Tourism service received correspondence from the ROI lead Councils to confirm both applications had been successful.

### **Feasibility Study for the 'Four Points of the Island'**

The feasibility study aims to:

- Scope how the four points of the island can be developed and promoted by a linked series of tourism projects including, but not limited to:
  - Outdoor recreation
  - Community and culture activity which have the ability to increase visitors and economic return to each area.
- Determine any infrastructure needs and associated costs to facilitate visitor traffic (where applicable).
- Identify shared links and how best to market and promote the unique offering across the island.
- Identify the key offerings to the visitor which currently exist within the vicinity of the four "points", and subsequently determine which offerings provide could be cross promoted or be developed as new projects.
- Identify, where available, "best practice" products / schemes elsewhere, which could be adapted by the partner authorities.
- Deliver dual branding solutions, best practice marketing and promotion to for the overall product.
- A detailed cost benefit analysis from an economic and cultural viewpoint.
- Identify and develop a clear communication and consultation plan to build the capacity and engagement of the community to ensure the project is "visitor equipped".

This application has received €100,000 of funding on the basis of a financial contribution of €5000 from each council (from existing 21/22 budget, previously advised to Council in June 2022) and resource in kind support from each partner council to deliver a €120,000 project.

### **Feasibility Study for the development of an All-Island Columban Way**

The application is for a Feasibility Study to scope the development and economic return of a fully connected Columban Way walking route, traversing North and South. The concept route is based on a spiritual pilgrim route from Mount Leinster, the birthplace of Columbanus, via County Fermanagh to Bangor, County Down where Columbanus later set sail for Europe.

The feasibility study aims to deliver on the following outcomes:

Development of business case for a combined route both sides of the border covering:

- Identification of market demand and projected footfall (years 1, 5, 10).
- Identify existing routes and potential route development options for linkage.
- Potential economic return, employment opportunity and social and cultural metrics.
- Identification of consumer needs and expectations.
- Research of best practice on already existing trails across Europe.

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- Assessment of existing experiential offerings along any proposed route to determine linkages to the new trail.
- Cost benefit analysis.
- Technical assessment and infrastructure needs of route including where necessary pre-planning aspects.
- Dual / co-branding of any route.
- Development of community involvement.

The application has received €250,000. All partners have indicated resource in kind support, but no additional financial contribution.

Expenditure is to be fully programmed within 12 months and determined by timelines set out in the applications. This is a challenging timeframe where dates have been committed, due to the delay of the funding announcement. The Council awaits further guidance from lead partners on confirmation from the Funder.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council welcomes the award of funding from the Shared Island Fund for the two tourism projects.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development Committee
Date of Meeting	6 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	26 August 2022
File Reference	160167
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	ED Performance Report Q1 2022-23 (April-June 2022)
Attachments	

**Context**

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlines 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 2022)
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2022)

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.



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**Reporting approach**

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a quarterly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 1 (Q1)	April – June	September
Q2	July – September	December
Q3	October – December	March
Q4	January - March	June

The report for Quarter 1 2022-23 is attached.

**Key points to note:**

- Performance in certain areas of service delivery has been affected as difficulties in recruiting staff to fill posts has continued into this year, as have some instances of staff illness. Work streams had to be prioritised in line with the resources available and therefore some targets in this quarter have been not met and budgets underspent.
- Following a joint meeting with DfE and the NI Audit Office (NIAO) it has been agreed that Councils should reference both the statutory targets and the *Go for It* programme targets. We are therefore reporting on the two sets of targets for Business Start-up activity: the original target set as part of transferring functions under RPA (referred to as NIBSUP2) and the revised target issued last year by DfE for *Go For It*. The new target will not be formally agreed to replace the original until the Executive is in place.

**Key achievements:**

- Pickie Fun Park and Exploris are continuing to perform well and are attracting increasing number of visitors.
- Business start activity figures are on track which has contributed to the job creation targets being met.
- Posts for the Labour Market Partnership have now been successfully filled, although one through agency. This means that work can progress to prepare rollout of the action plan.

**Emerging issues:**

- The funding for Business Start programme will end on 31 March 2023. There is still no clarity on replacement funding streams for ERDF however, Officers continue to work with all other Councils, through the established working group, to seek funding and to prepare plans to provide continuity of support for business start-up and to prepare for a new programme.
- Despite filling the LMP posts, there remain several vacancies within the ED team. While the replacement of required posts takes place, there will be challenges for

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current team members and workloads will need to be carefully monitored and managed.

- The LMP Action Plan has been approved and submitted to the Department of Communities however, DfC is still not in a position to confirm the budget for 2022-23. Until Council receives confirmation, implementation of planned activity will be restricted and will impact delivery targets for the year.

### **Action to be taken:**

- Officers have taken action to fill posts and recruitment is progressing with some of the posts being filled, when necessary, through agency which will help address service delivery in the next quarter. Work will continue with HR to address staffing issues.
- Officers will continue to work with government departments to try to progress funding confirmations for the required work streams.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the report.














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## Quarterly Performance Report - Economic Development

Generated on: 26 August 2022

Last Update Q1 2022/23

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	Conduct annual business survey	1	1
	% spend against budget	52.55%	100%
	Manage operator agreements performance	100%	100%
	% staff attendance	89.94%	95%
	Team Briefings to be communicated to all available staff monthly (unless Sick or on leave)	100%	100%
	PR & thought pieces placed in relevant publications	2	2
	No of business support group interventions/workshops	0	6
	No of 1:1 Business Advice sessions	25	20
	Number of business research assignments	9	22
	Number of businesses supported through the Digital Growth Programme	4	4
	Draw down of Seal Sanctuary claim from DAERA	100%	100%
	No of new jobs created through NIBSUP2	31	20
	Number of new jobs created through Go For It programme	31	31

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development Committee
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	15 August 2022
File Reference	RDP47
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Ards and North Down Interim Labour Market Partnership Update
Attachments	

**LMP Context**

Members will recall that the Department for Communities (DfC) made funding available for each of the 11 Councils to develop its own Interim Labour Market Partnership (ILMP) with funding being available until the end of March 2022. Additional funding for an Interim Action Plan for 2022-23, and a further 3-year Action Plan for 2023-2026 were planned subject to the Executive's approved funding.

The DfC Letter of Offer for the period 2022-23 was received on 10 June 2022.

Due to DfC receiving less funding than anticipated and a slight increase to Administration costs, the Operational Budget has seen a reduction from what was originally offered.

Therefore, the indicative offer of funding by DfC is split as follows:

- Administration Costs: £101,999.21
- Operational Costs: £300,741.59

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A Letter of Offer Acceptance Form for the Operational Budget was signed by the Council's Chief Executive and was returned following the R&D Committee approval on 30 June 2022.

It must be noted that a Letter of Offer in relation to the Administration Costs (staff and administration resources) was received to allow for the set-up and running of the LMP on 15 April 2022. This funding is guaranteed by the DfC.

However, the Letter of Offer relating to the Operational Costs is indicative and subject to an internal business case being agreed by DfC. Although it was stated in that Letter of Offer that the business case would be agreed by the end of June 2022, this has not happened, and it is now likely that it will not be agreed until at least September 2022. This effectively means that the LMP and the Council would be operating at risk as there is no guarantee at this stage that the funding will be paid.

It is felt that smaller projects can proceed, as they are aligned with the Economic Development Section's objectives and can therefore complement its work. However, larger projects such as the employer academies which need to go through a tendering process are judged to be too great a financial risk to proceed.

The LMP staff is therefore preparing the tenders, in the hope that they can be issued as soon as the DfC internal business case is agreed but, will not proceed until confirmation that the funding will be formally allocated.

On a more positive note, Members may recall that the Department for the Economy (DfE) also issued a Letter of Offer for the amount of £50K to each of the 11 Councils to progress the work of the LMP. This was used to immediately procure a delivery agent for the HGV training and employment Academy. DfE allowed this funding to roll over into the 2022-23 financial year, with the project to complete in March 2023.

### **HGV Training Academy**

An e-tender was prepared and advertised with a closing date of 23 March 2022. Tenders were assessed on 25 March 2022 in line with Council procurement processes and DFPF (People 1<sup>st</sup> and Henderson Wholesale Ltd) were appointed as the delivery agents.

The Academy was promoted via an e-flyer across Council Social Media channels and via ANDBusiness e-zine and was also featured on ANDBusiness as a News Story.

Outcomes of the recruitment efforts were as follows:

- 300+ candidate enquiries in seven days.
- 147 applications.
- 15 not eligible/withdrawn due to criteria.
- 123 invited for interview/assessment over two days.
- 97/123 completed secondary assessment form (2) ahead of interview.
- 70/123 attended and completed face to face interview.
- 30 funded candidates chosen from all four elements of application

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- Candidates have been chosen regarding 20 & 10 split in employment status (20 people for the entry level and 10 people for the upskilling opportunity).
- Mixture of postal codes throughout the Borough ensuring all areas benefit.
- Combination of ability and employment history regarding driving.
- Age range from 25-55 years.
- Both male and female represented with females being 13% of selected candidates.

A waiting list of those candidates who would benefit from the programme but were not selected in the initial 30 was established. They will be contacted regarding any drop off from the programme.

A joint LMP/HGV Academy launch took place on Thursday 28 July 2022. The launch consisted of a photo call with the Mayor. The Launch was attended by The Mayor, LMP Manager, Chair of LMP, representatives of DfC, Henderson Wholesale Ltd and People 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Update on the work of the LMP**

#### **Structure:**

#### **LMP Members and Sub-committees**

Membership of the LMP consists of around 30 members from sectoral bodies, voluntary and community organisations and Council representatives.

In April 2022, three subcommittees were established with members opting to join a group in order to develop projects to the point where they were ready for the LMP staff to develop into Terms of Reference for tenders or quotes.

The three subcommittees relate to the themes within the 2022-23 Action Plan. The three themes are as follows:

- **Theme 1** – Supporting people into employment and employment enhancement
- **Theme 2** – Young People with employment challenges
- **Theme 3** – Covid-19 related labour market disruption

The subcommittees report back to the full LMP.

#### **Action Plan:**

#### **Action Plan - Year 1**

The LMP worked within tight delivery timescales to deliver as much from the 2021-22 Action Plan as possible.

To that end, the following procurement exercises were undertaken to deliver on four projects from the 21-22 Action Plan:

- (i) Two scoping exercises to gather information in respect of existing job portals and support and training programmes.  
Procurement of a delivery agent for this project, has to date, been unsuccessful. DfC have agreed to extend the deadline for delivery of this project to March 2023.

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- (ii) The creation and training of a pool of mentors to assist people to get into employment or upskill. Part A of this project was completed in year 1 and saw the recruitment of 5 mentors. Work for Part B of this programme is currently on-going.
- (iii) Creation of videos highlighting the skills within two employment sectors (Engineering and Food Processing) for use in post primary schools as part of the careers programme. These videos have been pitched at post primary level and have been disseminated to all 13 post primary schools. The feedback has been extremely positive in terms of video quality and content.
- (iv) The development and delivery of an HGV drivers training academy as mentioned in the first part of this report.

**Action Plan – Year 2**

The following procurement exercises (pending full approval of the internal DfC Business Case) will be undertaken to deliver on nine projects from the Action Plan.

**Thematic Group 1 - Supporting people into employment and employment enhancement**

1. Upskill unemployed people with disabilities and help them gain employment through Job Focused Academies.
2. Upskill unemployed people and help them gain employment through Job Focused Academies.
3. Job Fairs.
4. Third level education student enterprise academy focusing on business start.

**Thematic Group 2 - Young People with Employment Challenges**

5. 11 School Videos produced.
6. Provision of work opportunities – work experience and placements for 16-18 year olds in full time education.
7. Enterprise Skills Programme for 16-24-year olds through Regional Colleges to support self-employment.

**Thematic Group 3 - Covid 19-related Labour Market Disruption**

8. Reskilling for Job Vacancies – Health and Social Care Academy.
9. Reskilling for Job Vacancies – HGV Training and Employment Academy.

**Recruitment for LMP Administration**

The LMP is now fully staffed with the LMP Manager post filled on 1 June 2022 and the Administration Officer post filled on 13 June 2022.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council:

1. Notes the contents of the report; and
2. Approves the course of action as proposed, in relation to procurement, until DfC approves its internal business case and confirms that the funding can be fully allocated to the LMP for the realisation of its Year 2 Action Plan.



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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development Committee
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	20 September 2022
File Reference	ED125
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	4C UR Future Event
Attachments	

**Background**

As agreed by Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council hosted a pilot careers inspiration event for over 700 Year 9 pupils called 4C UR Future LIVE on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at the Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Complex in Newtownards.

Designed and delivered by local social enterprise, 4C UR Future, an industry-led Community Interest Company, which works collaboratively with a wide range of employers from the key sectors in Northern Ireland, the events aimed to empower young people to make more informed education and career choices.

4C UR Future LIVE is a fun, fast-paced, and action-packed day of interactive skills games and work-based challenges, with each game co-created and delivered by local employers, giving Year 9 students an insight into the future world of work, as well as their own strengths and talents. 4C UR Future works with numerous local employers creating an action-packed day that enabled students to identify their own strengths and interests relative to those that are in demand by different sectors.

The world of work is changing rapidly with new jobs, and even entirely new sectors, emerging. This has resulted in a complex careers landscape that can make choosing GCSE subjects, further education pathways, and future career options overwhelming, confusing, and stressful for young people.

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This initiative is in line with the work currently carried out by the Economic Development Section as part of our Enterprise Awareness efforts. The Section is leading and facilitating other similar initiatives such as the GCSE Support and Revision Programme, the YENI Enterprise Awareness Programme, the NI Apprenticeship Week with school children to allow them to assess the career opportunities that are available to them and to encourage them to consider options such as self-employment, apprenticeships, or more academic routes if this is what they feel is right for them as an individual.

4C UR Future LIVE events and its first-generation *Careers Portal* (which will be operational in September) aims to inform young people of the wide range of opportunities available to them, help them navigate the complex careers landscape, and inspire them to achieve their ambitions and become the best version of themselves.

### **Event details**

The event consisted of 10 work-based games and skills challenges, which were co-designed with employers, and intended to identify and draw out 43 “future of work” employability criteria. The games included: Business on the Move (logistics, coordination, and planning focus), Chop Chop (manual dexterity, meeting customer spec, and reducing waste focus), Code Home (digital skills and problem solving), Escape Room (logical thinking, problem solving, mathematics focus), Eventful Events (planning and creativity focus), Like A Boss (commercial and entrepreneurial focus), Positive Pieces (communication and empathy focus), Race To Net Zero (environmental awareness, team work, and competitive focus), Test Lab (science and team work focus), and The Sky’s The Limit (design focus).

Throughout the event, pupil performance and witnessed attributes were recorded by 4C UR Future volunteers (called ‘Career Heroes’) via a bespoke data collection app. This information, combined with a pupil ‘Getting To Know You’ survey (completed by pupils via the Careers Portal), was analysed at scale by population to provide each pupil with a Positive Feedback Profile based on their strengths. This will be accessible via the Careers Portal in September, along with a wealth of additional information, activities, and signposting.

The total outcomes from the 2022 campaign are currently being integrated with the Careers Portal. Full and more detailed feedback (for example from teachers and pupils) is not available at this time, as there are a number of survey completions outstanding which will not be completed until school term time commences in September. It is expected that the final outcome will be reported to the Council by October 2022.

### **Marketing and participant outputs**

Following the event, a local press release was issued in the Newtownards Chronicle in June. Images from the event were also shared on LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

The event was attended by Education Minister Michelle McIlveen and joined by the Mayor, Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning, Susie McCullough.

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4C UR Future LIVE 2022 Roadshow participant figures for the Ards and North Down event were as follows:

Total Pupils – 711  
 Total Teachers & School Staff – 60  
 Total Volunteers – 95

Movilla High School – 102  
 Priory Integrated College – 110  
 Regent House Grammar School – 243  
 St Columbanus College – 125  
 Strangford Integrated College – 131

From the 11 4C UR Future LIVE 2022 Roadshows carried out through the 11 council boroughs, over 52 schools and 6,357 pupils with 523 teachers and school staff, as well as up to 551 volunteers attended.

A survey is currently being circulated to all schools in Northern Ireland which took part in the live events.

So far, 300 volunteer survey responses and over 100 teacher survey responses have been received and are being evaluated. Pupils are also completing their survey responses.

High level evaluation so far from volunteers includes:

- 95% of volunteers enjoyed their experience volunteering for the LIVE events, with 23% saying they "loved it!".
- 33% of volunteers felt participating increased their confidence, 39% felt they developed their communication skills, and 62% felt they benefitted from networking with the other businesses and volunteers.
- 90% of volunteers felt the event played a positive role in bringing individuals from different backgrounds and cultures together.
- 86% of volunteers would like to participate in a future LIVE event.
- 58% of volunteers felt participation increased their engagement with their employer, 72% felt it helped businesses support and give back to the local community, 66% felt the events raised awareness of their business with local young people as a future employer, and 63% felt it raised awareness of their sector with young people.

High level evaluation so far from teachers/school staff includes:

- 98% of staff said their pupils enjoyed the LIVE event, with 17% saying they "loved it!".
- 53% described LIVE as "interesting and useful", 54% as "innovative and different", 42% as "engaging and relevant", and 23% as "exciting and fun".
- 59% of staff felt pupils improved their communication skills as a result of the event, 52% of staff felt pupils improved their teamwork skills as a result of the event, 47% felt pupils had increased awareness of different types of jobs and employers as a result of the event, and 24% felt pupils were more confident in their own skills and capabilities as a result of the event.

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- 79% of staff felt the event played a positive role in bringing individuals from different backgrounds and cultures together.
- 72% of staff engaged with employers at the event they had not heard of or engaged with before.
- 88% of schools would be interested in attending a future LIVE event.

Please note: the above % figures are subject to change due to us receiving late survey submissions.

When all the responses are received, analysis will be carried out at Council level. However, from the surveys already received, the following statistics and comments have been compiled for the Ards and North Down Borough Council area:

- 16 school staff responded for AND.
- 88% of staff felt the event played a positive role in bringing individuals from different backgrounds and cultures together.
- 100% of schools would be interested in attending a future LIVE event.

Comments from AND school staff:

- The interactive element was fantastic.
- It was just great to see the students enjoying a different and new experience.
- Range of activities.
- Kids engaged well.
- Bring more employers.
- Schools coming together.
- The opportunity to engage with local employers and get students to have an interactive experience applying the skills that we have spoken about in the classroom.
- Some individual stations were great - the NI electricity and catering dough activity. Pupils really enjoyed the chance to engage in hands on activities particularly after all the covid restrictions.
- Awareness pupils gained of job skills.
- Inviting, various businesses took part, engaging for students, good space, very accommodating, lunch was nice for staff.
- Well organised event that gave pupils the opportunity to develop skills and attributes. The event at the Blair Mayne Centre in Newtownards was excellent.
- It brought a lot of children together and helped them build relationships with people in their own school.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the report.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development Committee
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	22 September 2022
File Reference	160094
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Bangor Business Awards
Attachments	

**Background**

Due to COVID-19 no business awards have been able to take place since 2019. 2022 will now see the marking of 20 years since the Bangor Business Awards were launched, with a celebration event planned to take place on 3 November 2022 which unfortunately coincides with the date of the November Regeneration and Development Committee.

The past few years have proved very challenging for businesses, who will continue to face difficulties in the current climate. However, our local businesses have proved their resilience, ability to innovate and sustainability and the awards will offer an opportunity to recognise their hard work and achievements.

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

Each Chamber developed a business plan outlining actions to support the traders in each town. Updates have been regularly reported to Committee.

Included within the action plan for Bangor Chamber of Commerce is a Business Awards event to celebrate the work and successes of local businesses in the area.

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Ards and North Down Borough Council will be a key sponsor for the event which will take place on the evening of Thursday 3 November 2022 at the Clandeboye Lodge.

Due to rising costs ticket allocations have been reduced. As part of Council sponsorship, 10 complimentary tickets per are being made available to Council. It is suggested that the tickets are allocated for the attendance of: one senior officer; four key partner stakeholders; 4 Elected Members, plus the Mayor.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council agrees to the allocations of tickets as set out in this report and nominates four Members to attend the Bangor Business Awards on 3 November 2022.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development Committee
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	26 September 2022
File Reference	RDP196
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Renewed Ambition Programme 2022-23 Update
Attachments	RAP Building Impact Report

**1. Renewed Ambition Background**

Council agreed to be a member of the Renewed Ambition Programme (RAP) in January 2022. RAP is a joint public and private sector-led initiative and aims to work collaboratively to showcase investment and development opportunities across the Belfast City Region as we seek to deliver on our shared ambitions for the region as an exciting place to work, live, visit and invest. It is a 5 pillared programme focused on activities to ensure that Belfast and the wider city region is well positioned to continue to attract investment and to deliver on inclusive growth.

The 5 pillars are:

- 1) Programme of Content aimed at the local and international real estate audience which aims to showcase the Belfast City Region for future real estate investment through participation at virtual and in-person conferences and showcase events.
- 2) Programme of Engagement and Advocacy to facilitate two-way conversations with policy makers and to showcase real estate opportunities to the investor community. This aims to position the Belfast City Region positively and seeks to identify and try to address barriers that investors, developers, and occupiers may face when they consider Belfast as a destination.
- 3) Media and Stakeholder Engagement, reinforcing positive messaging around Belfast's investment proposition through international marketing and

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communication campaigns, targeting the national and international real estate investment and development community.

- 4) A shared access Repository on the investinbelfast.com website which facilitates sharing of data, marketing collateral and intel to help ensure consistent messaging and shared narrative is used by all partners when promoting the city region.
- 5) Research aligned to the impact of real estate investment to inform the city proposition and narrative.

## 2. Programme Update

RAP is attending two national/international investor events; these being; UKREiif, Leeds, May 2022 and MIPIM, Cannes, March 2023. As well as planning an investor showcase event in Dublin and London.

Council previously agreed to send officers to UKREiif, with the Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning attending, as part of the 25 strong RAP contingent, to raise the profile of the Borough as a great place to invest.

RAP activity at UKREiif including a networking reception with the Department for International Trade, and a workshop on the transformative £1bn Belfast Region City Deal, including a presentation by Wayne Hemmingway on the vision for Bangor Waterfront, which was very positively received. Officers had a number of one-to-one meetings at the event and AND investment sites were uploaded onto the UKREiif investment portal, which is accessible to all 4,000 delegates. 175 delegates also visited the RAP stand.

UKREiif was attended by investors, policy decision makers and end users, a number of which could prove beneficial to the Borough, for example, a large number of hotel operators attended. Therefore consideration should be given to attending the event again in 2023 and a separate report will be brought to Council closer to the time in this regard.

RAP is currently planning the Belfast Region Stand and attendance at MIPIM, Cannes scheduled for 14-17 March 2023. This is the leading global property market event, with international real estate industry attending from around the world. The main focus of the event tends to be from investors and financial institutions and real estate business services who are interested in large scale commercial property opportunities.

The Mayor, Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning previously attended MIPIM to showcase the Borough for inward investors. Although it provides a unique platform and the costs for flights and accommodation (in Nice) are minimal, c£400 per person, which can be accommodated within the current ED budget. It is recommended that, in light of the global economic situation, that officers and/or members do not attend MIPIM in 2023. This will be reviewed again for the 2024 event. It should be noted that the Borough will still be represented through RAP Marketing materials on the stand.



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### **3. Marketing Materials**

All six Council RAP partners are collectively updating the joint marketing and sales collateral previously developed. This will outline the vision and proposition of why investors and property developers should consider the region, as well as providing information on individual potential sites.

### **4. Research**

RAP have recently launched a 'Building Impact' report, (enclosed). The aim of this research is to identify and demonstrate the positive social, economic and environmental impact that real estate and built environment projects can deliver when done well and provide recommendations to help deliver wider benefits from future real estate development in the Belfast region, based on international best practice.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the report and that officers and members do not attend MIPIM, Cannes, in March 2023.



**Belfast**  
City Council

CITY GROWTH & REGENERATION COMMITTEE

<b>Subject:</b>	Renewed Ambition Programme Update
<b>Date:</b>	8 June 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Marie Miller, Marketing Manager, City Regeneration & Development

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update Members on the Renewed Ambition Partnership Programme for 2022 / 2023 aimed at delivering regeneration, infrastructure and a modern built environment for Belfast and wider City Region.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note an update on elements of the programme of work which is being delivered via the Renewed Ambition public-private partnership, including report findings from research which examined the role that the built environment plays in delivering Social, Environmental and Economic benefits to Belfast and the wider Belfast City Region, and update following Belfast's attendance at UKREiiF – the UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>II. Note that a presentation will be made at this Committee (by the Chair of the Renewed Ambition Partnership Taskforce and consultants) on the report findings in relation to the role that the built environment plays in delivering Social, Environmental and Economic Benefits including recommendations on how this can be enhanced and maximised going forward for the benefit of the city and wider region.</li> <li>III. Approve entering into contractual arrangements on behalf of the Renewed Ambition Partnership with event organisers for MIPIM 2023, noting that this event will be funded through the existing Renewed Ambition Partnership sponsorship.</li> <li>IV. Approve attendance by the Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominated representative, along with senior officers as appropriate at MIPIM 2023</li> <li>V. Approve the establishment of a Members City Centre Working Group, with further details to be brought back on the Terms of Reference and membership based on advice via Democratic Services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>At May’s City Growth &amp; Regeneration Committee Members agreed that representatives from the Renewed Ambition Taskforce, alongside the consultants who undertook research which sought to examine the role the built environment plays in delivering social, environmental and economic benefits to the Belfast Region, attend this month’s Committee meeting to update on report findings and wider programme of work currently being undertaken by the partnership.</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Members will be aware that the Renewed Ambition Partnership, a joint public – private initiative which is supported by public and private sectors as well as key anchor institutions, is currently delivering a programme of work aimed at ensuring Belfast is positioned to continue to attract investment and delivering sustainable and inclusive growth.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p>The Renewed Ambition Partnership is comprised of Belfast City Council, all Belfast Region City Deal Partner Councils, Invest Northern Ireland, Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Belfast Harbour Commissioners, and representatives from the developer and built environment supply chain community.</p>

3.4	<p>Having the right physical, digital and social infrastructure in place is essential for creating the physical capacity for people to live, work and visit the city and delivering on our shared longer-term ambitions for the city, as outlined in the Belfast Agenda. Underpinning the successful delivery of regeneration and development projects and creating the right city infrastructure is the ability to attract investment. This requires collaborative working with city partners to attract investment and ensure we create the right physical and built environment required to support a sustainable, inclusive city.</p>
3.5	<p>The Renewed Ambition Partnership is an important lever within our wider 'Positioning the City to Compete' proposition which seeks to build on the city's reputation as a unique destination for investment, tourism, development and supporting inclusive economic growth. It aligns to work being undertaken by other city partnerships including Innovation City Belfast, Belfast Region City Deal and Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor, alongside council-led activities to accelerate city centre living, build resilience and create a healthy, shared, vibrant and sustainable environment that promotes wellbeing for all, inclusive growth and innovation.</p>
3.6	<p>The Renewed Ambition Programme of activity for 2022 / 2023 launched in April and is delivering a structured 12 month programme of work focused on the five key pillars of Research; Events; Advocacy and Engagement; Communications and Repository with a clear focus on securing investment to deliver on city priorities.</p>
3.7	<p><b>Research Report: 'Building Impact – The Role the Built Environment Plays in Delivering Social, Environmental and Economic Benefits to the Belfast Region'</b></p>
3.8	<p>Members are reminded that the Renewed Ambition Partnership commissioned research to identify and demonstrate the positive social, economic and environmental impact that real estate and built environment projects can deliver when done well but importantly provide recommendations as to how, moving forward, the built environment partners can further enhance the delivery of wider sustainable development benefits from future development in the Belfast region.</p>
3.9	<p>The report findings and recommendations were informed through engagement with representatives from the Renewed Ambition Partnership, City Growth and Regeneration Committee, the CPP City Development Board, the Belfast Region City Deal partner</p>

	<p>Councils (inc Belfast City Council) and the local and international real estate development community.</p>
3.10	<p>A presentation will be made to Committee (on 8 June) which will provide further detail on the research findings and the recommendations going forward.</p>
3.11	<p>In summary, the report found that the real estate sector in the Belfast region is already stepping up to the sustainable development challenge and has performed well at delivering social, environmental and economic benefits to the wider city region. It highlights however that there is an opportunity for the built environment to drive additional sustainable development benefits, while also playing a key role in resolving some of the region's societal and sustainable development challenges, including unemployment, skills inequalities, economic growth, housing provision, levelling up, community cohesion, and climate change. It found that wider sustainable development and inclusive growth outcomes can be delivered over the three main phases in the real estate lifecycle: planning and acquisition, development phase and operational phase, and have a positive impact both within the redline boundary of any built asset as well as within local surrounding communities and in the wider Belfast region.</p>
3.12	<p>The local case studies identified in the research report include examples of real estate projects that have gone beyond minimum building regulations and delivered wider social, environmental and economic benefits to the city region. Some highlights from case studies contained within the report include Titanic Quarter which has already delivered £146 million of social value and it is expected that by 2035 that a further £382 million of social value will be generated. During construction of the new Ulster University campus in Belfast, UU has indicated that the equivalent of 101.7 years' worth of training, placement and apprenticeship opportunities were delivered to young people, students, and the long term unemployed. The Belfast Transport Hub early works was highly commended by the National Social Value Awards in 2021 for its approach to social value and the outcomes achieved during the enabling works phase. The restoration of Durham Street to create social housing by Clanmill Housing has won several awards. Council's Leisure Transformation Programme has provided the equivalent of 3,120 employment weeks to date throughout construction (still ongoing) to those furthest removed from the labour market. Blacks Gate, a 244 housing-led development being brought by Radius Housing Association on former industrial land, was also highlighted within the report. This project will see the delivery of 244 new</p>

	<p>homes, including 28 affordable homes, 3 play parks/open space, a linear park, a community facility and 60,000sqft of commercial space and has included significant social clauses to promote community development, employment, and apprenticeships.</p>
<p>3.13</p>	<p>The report also highlights that there are major real estate projects across all asset classes in the Belfast region that are in the pipeline – i.e. projects that are currently in design and construction, due to be completed in the future, that have the ability to deliver wider social, environmental and economic benefits to Belfast and the wider city region, including the potential to generate significant employment, skills development and local supply chain opportunities, as well as community and wellbeing benefits, for people and businesses in the Belfast region.</p>
<p>3.14</p>	<p>There are a number of public and private sector led projects and initiatives referenced in the report as examples of best practice, including Belfast City Council, Belfast Region City Deal partner Councils and BRCD projects. From the Council's perspective, the report highlighted the leadership Belfast City Council has demonstrated on the social value agenda by developing a Social Value Procurement Policy and a Social Value Toolkit, which aims to both achieve the best commercial outcome from our procurement activities and make a positive difference to the people and communities in Belfast. Council's Leisure Transformation Programme, Innovation Factory and Connswater Community Greenway were identified as positive projects in delivering wider social, environmental and economic benefits to the city region, while 'A Bolder Vision', Belfast Stories and Giant's Park North Foreshore were recognised as pipeline project examples that have the ability to deliver broader social, economic and environmental benefits to the city.</p>
<p>3.15</p>	<p>The report also recognises that the Belfast Region City Deal presents a unique opportunity to accelerate inclusive growth and sustainable development in the region. The tourism, regeneration, infrastructure and innovation projects funded through the Deal are being developed with inclusive growth and sustainability in mind, underpinned by an employability and skills programme. All BRCD projects are required to adhere to the BRCD Inclusive Growth and Sustainability Framework seeks to set new standards for the delivery of wider benefits in Northern Ireland and the reporting of outcomes.</p>
<p>3.16</p>	<p>The report has resulted in six key findings, and associated recommendations. Three of the recommendations are for the real estate sector and construction supply chain, one</p>

	<p>relates specifically to BRCD projects, one is focused on the role of local Councils, and one relates to the role of the NI Executive. These will be presented as part of the presentation at the CGR Committee.</p>
3.17	<p>The final draft report has been endorsed by the Renewed Ambition Taskforce and is being considered by the wider Renewed Ambition Partnership. It is also hoped that it will be brought to a future meeting of the Social Policy Working Group for consideration. A copy of the final report will be made available for Members following consideration by the wider Renewed Ambition Partnership.</p>
3.18	<p>The presentation to Committee will provide further detail on the research findings and the recommendations going forward as to how to ensure that the built environment continues to deliver positive social, environmental and economic benefits to the city and wider city region.</p>
3.19	<p>A key pillar of the 'advocacy and engagement' strand of the Renewed Ambition Programme of work moving forward will focus on ensuring that the report findings and recommendations act as enabling levers for city region partners to incorporate sustainable development best practice into real estate development projects moving forward. From a Council perspective, officers from across Council have input into the report and with mechanisms being progressed internally to ensure the Council takes a lead role in implementing the report recommendations in terms of their specific areas of responsibility.</p>
3.20	<p><b>2022 / 2023 Programme of Work</b></p> <p>At the meeting of the City Growth &amp; Regeneration Committee on 8 September 2021 an update was provided to Members on the Renewed Ambition Partnership, the programme objectives and proposed future programme of activity (copy September CGR report attached at Appendix 1). As set out in that report, from a Council perspective, this collaborative public / private sector partnership approach offers a strong foundation to build on the work to date achieved through attendance at international built environment events and presents an ongoing opportunity for alignment with other strategic aims of the Council. For the Council, the key aims and objectives of being part of the partnership and contributing to the programme include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Securing longer term institutional investors to support agreed regeneration plans of the Council and other partners, with a particular emphasis on housing led regeneration and city centre living</li> <li>- Securing investment to deliver housing development at scale as set out in the growth ambitions of the Belfast Agenda and the 'Reset for Growth' report</li> <li>- Secure investment in the built environment on a city-wide basis to facilitate opportunities for jobs and business, communities and providing physical and social infrastructure to deliver on inclusive economic growth</li> <li>- Investment in waterfront regeneration and key infrastructure, connectivity and innovation related projects</li> <li>- Investment to help address dereliction and support the re-use and preservation of heritage assets</li> <li>- Investment in tourism and cultural products to underpin regeneration priorities</li> <li>- Investment in clean tech, environmental and sustainability initiatives</li> </ul>
<p>3.21</p>	<p><b>UKREiiF</b></p> <p>UKREiiF, the UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum took place in Leeds from the 17 to 19 May 2022 and brought together nearly 4000 representatives from the public and private sector, central and local government, investors, funders, developers, housebuilders and end-users with the objective of accelerating the Levelling Up Agenda, whilst unlocking sustainable, inclusive and transformational investment across the UK. All major UK cities had a presence at the conference, and as previously agreed by Committee, included Council as part of a Belfast Region Partnership presence.</p>
<p>3.22</p>	<p>Key themes and conference sessions included achieving net zero targets by designing and delivering healthier, equal, greener cities; how we create vibrant places that work socially, economically and spatially, while delivering social value and inclusive growth; building better communities and inclusive inward investment.</p>
<p>3.23</p>	<p>As part of the Renewed Ambition Partnership, officers from Belfast City Council and Belfast Region City Deal partner Councils, alongside representatives from Queen's University Belfast, Belfast Harbour Commissioners, private sector developers and supply chain companies attended the conference to showcase the Belfast, and wider city region to support the delivery of our inclusive growth ambitions.</p>



<p>3.24</p>	<p>The Belfast programme included a dedicated panel discussion focused on how the Belfast Region City Deal will further strengthen the region’s compelling investment proposition and unlock a decade of opportunity; a Belfast networking reception on the DIT Stand; a joint investment facilitation networking session with Glasgow City Council, and a dedicated Belfast stand within the exhibition space.</p>
<p>3.25</p>	<p>Belfast City Council officers also presented and attended events organised by other cities and partner organisations including a main stage Panel discussion on “Levelling Up Across The UK” with BCC Chief Executive alongside representatives from Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Manchester; a panel discussion in the DIT Pavilion on “The UK is open and ready for business” featuring Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and DIT; Networking Reception hosted by Leeds City Council and Core Cities CEO’s Meeting and Investor’s Roundtable. In addition, there were a number of 1:1 meetings organised with institutional investors, funding organisations active in other UK cities, social value delivery vehicles, housing delivery partners, Innovation District representatives, senior officers from other UK Cities and regions, and the Department for International Trade, which facilitated the opportunity to discuss and share learnings on best practice for bringing forward sustainable, inclusive development and mechanisms for funding and delivery.</p>
<p>3.26</p>	<p>Officers are currently following up on a number of leads generated at UKREiiF, alongside other Renewed Ambition partners, and it is worth noting that there was a strong interest in investment and development opportunities across all residential tenures to support housing-led and mixed use regeneration, although with further information being sought as part of the follow up discussions on issues around demand/supply, planning, viability, rates and land values etc. In addition, there was a strong focus on innovation and the city’s growth sectors and how the Belfast Region City deal will support inclusive economic growth across the region, as well as net zero and infrastructure related projects. Further detail will be brought back to Committee as these follow up discussions progress.</p>
<p>3.27</p>	<p><b>MIPIIM 2023</b>                  Members are reminded that in previous years the Council has participated in the ‘Team Belfast’ attendance at MIPIIM - the world’s leading built environment conference and exhibition. Following the cancellation of MIPIIM 2020 due to Covid, the ‘Team Belfast’ partners coalesced into the Renewed Ambition partnership but with a renewed focus</p>

	<p>around a wider range of activities to bring forward investment and support inclusive growth with a particular focus on priority areas such as housing and another example being the research paper referenced above aimed at maximising the social, environmental and economic benefit from real estate. The Partnership membership was also expanded and now includes NIHE, Housing Association representation, all the BRCD Councils and anchor institutions as well as developer and supply chain representatives.</p>
<p>3.28</p>	<p>Whilst there was a MIPIM 2022 event in March, the Renewed Ambition Partnership did not attend on this occasion. However, the Renewed Ambition Taskforce has recently endorsed a Belfast presence at MIPIM in March 2023 and its inclusion within the Renewed Ambition Programme of activity for 2022 / 2023. The presentation to Committee from representatives from the Renewed Ambition Taskforce will provide further detail on how a Belfast Region presence at MIPIM assists on the delivery of investment that provides for sustainable inclusive growth in the city and wider city region, based on previous experience at MIPIM and looking forward.</p>
<p>3.29</p>	<p>MIPIM is an annual built environment exhibition and conference which brings together nearly 27,000 public and private sector built environment representatives from across the globe, including all major UK and European cities. It provides city leaders with an opportunity to promote their city to a global audience and connect with potential partners and sources of investment required to unlock built environment regeneration and development. In a similar vein to UKREiiF, MIPIM has re-pivoted to focus on ensuring the built environment supports sustainable development. Discussions are on-going with the event organisers on emerging themes and structure for the 2023 conference and they have indicated that the conference themes are likely to build on the 2022 key themes of Cities for Citizens, Housing, Sustainability and Decarbonising the Built Environment.</p>
<p>3.30</p>	<p>From a Renewed Ambition Partnership perspective, partners feel that attending MIPIM allows Belfast and the Belfast Region to position itself to a global audience and attract the interest of institutional investors, developers, occupiers and funders in the context of bringing forward sustainable development to create a well-connected and culturally vibrant, sustainable city and region. The Partnership has therefore proposed a Belfast City Region presence at MIPIM 2023, in line with other UK Cities, and a focused programme of activity which would include key investment priorities of housing,</p>

	<p>innovation, green technology and showcasing investment opportunities within the Belfast region which draw on our key growth sectors, BRCD ambitions and delivering key regeneration projects to help ensure the built environment delivers social, environmental and economic benefits to the wider city region as highlighted within the 'Building Impact' Report.</p>
<p>3.31</p>	<p>The other BRCD partner Councils and private sector partners have expressed a clear interest in attending MIPIM 2023, however they feel that in order to successfully showcase Belfast and the wider City Region, it requires the civic leadership and attendance of Belfast City Council. As referenced in section 3.20, the Council's involvement will align to and complement other BCC led activities within the context of 'Positioning the City to Compete' and delivering a 'Global Future' - a key action area from the Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission, with a core focus on accelerating city centre living, notably seeking institutional investment to help drive housing building at scale, while also supporting work being undertaken by Economic Development, Tourism and Culture, Resilience, SMART Belfast and partnerships including Innovation City Belfast, Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor and BRCD.</p>
<p>3.32</p>	<p>The governance of the Renewed Ambition Partnership is via a Taskforce comprised of representatives of the public and private sector, with Council managing all contractual and financial elements of programme delivery. Subject to Members approval, officers would enter into contractual arrangements on behalf of RAP with the event organisers for MIPIM 2023, noting that the Belfast City Region presence at MIPIM will be funded through the existing RAP programme budget.</p>
<p>3.33</p>	<p><b>City Centre Working Group</b>          Post-pandemic the city continues to face a range of societal, economic and environmental challenges. Committee are regularly briefed on projects and interventions that Council and partners are working on to drive city recovery in the short term, while also bringing forward priorities under the Corporate Plan and strategic programmes of work including 'A Bolder Vision' and wider city connectivity, housing led regeneration, tourism and cultural activity and the Future City Centre Programme aimed at delivering a vibrant, liveable and sustainable city centre which connects to the surrounding communities. From a city centre perspective, there remain a number of opportunities but also challenges ranging from operational issues such as cleansing, safety and transport, to vibrancy/cultural and tourism activities, engagement with</p>

	<p>businesses, development and regeneration priorities including the drive for more city centre living, enhanced connectivity and the importance of physical, social and economic connections to existing communities.</p>
3.34	<p>Successfully delivering our city ambitions and addressing the challenges of the city centre requires public and private sector city partners working collaboratively to address these challenges. All city stakeholders have a key role to play in successfully delivering this ambition and there is a clear desire amongst a number of these stakeholders for a more cohesive forum for discussing and addressing issues, whilst maximising opportunities to collectively deliver on the ambitions for a successful city centre.</p>
3.35	<p>It is proposed that a Members City Centre Working Group is convened to provide a forum to allow, as appropriate, public and private city stakeholders, including representatives from business and community organisations, the development, tourism and cultural, housing and education sectors and BID's, to engage with Members to address the short- and longer-term challenges facing the city centre. Members will be aware that similar Working Groups are already in place for North, South, East and West Belfast and it is felt that it would be beneficial to have a similar dedicated focus on the City Centre. Given the important role of the city centre as a hub for investment, culture, tourism, learning and employment, it is felt that a Members Working Group could help ensure it can continue to perform these important roles for all areas of the city to derive the benefits. Given the importance of continued public private partnership working it could also serve as a useful forum to consider some of the matters raised via the Renewed Ambition Partnership and seek input of Members as appropriate.</p>
3.36	<p>Subject to Members agreement on this approach a further paper will be brought back on the Terms of Reference and advice via Democratic Services on the make-up of the Group.</p>
3.37	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The Renewed Ambition Partnership is delivered as a public private sector sponsorship fund and is supported by a range of public, private and key anchor institutions.</p>
3.38	<p>Council has previously agreed to contribute of £80,000 towards the 2022 Renewed Ambition Partnership. In addition, all Belfast Region City Deal partner Councils, Belfast Harbour Commissioners, Queen's University Belfast, and representatives from the</p>

	<p>developer and built environment supply chain community have contributed towards the current programme of activity, with external and private sector funding forming the majority of the overall programme budget.</p>
3.39	<p>The Renewed Ambition Partnership (RAP) Taskforce, the governing body for the Partnership, are proposing that a Belfast City Region presence at MIPIM 2023 should be included in the RAP 2022 / 2023 programme of activity, with associated costs being funded through the existing Partnership sponsorship budget.</p>
3.40	<p>Council undertakes the contract and financial management on behalf of RAP. Approval is sought for officers to enter into contractual arrangements on behalf of RAP with event organisers for MIPIM 2023, noting that this will be funded through the sponsorship already secured from public and private partners to deliver the wider Renewed Ambition Programme.</p>
3.41	<p>Approval is also sought for the Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominated representative, along with senior officers as appropriate to attend MIPIM 2023 with travel costs to be met from within existing departmental budgets. All other costs related to the Belfast Region Presence at MIPIM 2023 would be met from the existing RAP Public - Private Partnership Programme Budget.</p>
3.42	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents attached</b></p>
	<p><b>Appendix 1:</b> City Growth &amp; Regeneration Committee Report on Public / Private Partnership for Developing Regeneration, Infrastructure and a Modern Built Environment for the City of Belfast, September 2021</p>

Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Regeneration and Development
Date of Meeting	06 October 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	06 October 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Ferry cancellation - 24 <sup>th</sup> September
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Letter to the Chief Executive from Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster

A letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, regarding the above Ferry cancellation has been received by the Chief Executive (Appendix 1). The Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster represents 29 tourism businesses in and around the Strangford Lough area. The letter advised that the Ferry cancellation had detrimental impacts on tourism businesses in the locality. Four specific examples of financial loss experienced by businesses across both Council areas are cited within the letter. Commentary is also provided on the longer-term impact regarding visitor confidence in access to the area.

It further states that the reason provided by the Department for the cancellation was due to 'circumstances beyond our control' and that a letter has been sent to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Chief Executive in Newry and Mourne District Council.

Since this letter has been written a further Ferry cancellation happened on 2nd October 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Unclassified

It is recommended that Council writes to the Minister of Infrastructure highlighting the Ferry cancellations' impact to the local tourism businesses, and further asks for the cancellation reasons, and reassurance on the service to maintain a robust, reliable and safe Ferry schedule in the future.

Strangford Lough Tourism CIC  
c/o Fourum  
Floor 3  
Flatiron  
Upper Church Lane  
Belfast

30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Stephen Reid

#### RE IMPACT OF CANCELLATION OF STRANGFORD LOUGH FERRY ON WEEKEND NIGHTS

I am writing on behalf of the Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster which represents 29 businesses around the lough.

On Friday 23 September at 5pm all ferry service users were notified that there would be no service after 7.45pm on the following day - Saturday 24 Sept. The reason given was "circumstances beyond our control". The ferry staff advised that the reason was due to a lack of available staff. The staff report that there has been no recruitment for four years and that there is an over reliance on agency workers. The consequence of this is that if two staff members are sick and agency workers do not want to work on a weekend night then the ferry cannot function.

The impact of cancellations like this is severe. There are immediate direct consequences affecting the night time economy (four restaurants in Portaferry plus the three in Strangford, the many pubs and clubs and the 300 person capacity arts venue Portico) as well as for individuals wanting to cross the lough. All of the businesses rely on the ferry providing a reliable service for their customers and have suffered losses in revenue, disruption to staffing and of great concern the impact on visitor confidence in using the ferry. Those directly impacted have supplied the following evidence -

- Portico reports that 25% of its attendees use the ferry (coming from Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Newcastle areas). 25% of a capacity audience of 300 people at say £25 pp is a loss of £1875. In addition, more than 50% of those attendees will also have a meal or drinks in the local hospitality sector at a further £30 pp. giving an estimated overall loss of around £3000 per weekend night.



- The Narrows lost two accommodation bookings as the group wasn't able to meet with their relatives and friends in Strangford. One restaurant booking, group of 6, coming from Downpatrick, unable to cross over. Estimated loss £300 - £500
- The Cuan on average in restaurant services 150 covers on a Saturday night, however, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September they only had 30 covers. The estimated lost revenue is approximately £2,000, they also had to send staff home which was deducted from their wages as they were haemorrhaging revenue on that evening.
- The Lobster Pot had several cancellations, lost revenue estimated between £1000 - £1500. They also had to let staff that leave early and rearrange lifts and transport home travelling around the Lough from Strangford to Comber to Portaferry, which resulted unexpected outgoings on fuel and taxi.

From these four businesses alone, we estimate loss in revenue of at least £7,000. There are indirect consequences too: confidence in the reliability of the ferry is critical. Visitors will not book tickets or meals if they are not confident that the ferry will be running. Portaferry and Strangford businesses are already constrained by the ferry service timetable. If customers are unable to rely on the scheduled timetable then the consequences for the night time economy are disastrous.

Some of these businesses, such as Portico, are in receipt of Tourism Event grants from ANDBC. It is somewhat illogical that, on the one hand, businesses are given incentives to attract visitors to the area, whilst on the other hand, the ferry service is seemingly inadequately funded and unreliable.

On behalf of the Strangford Lough Tourism Cluster I appeal to you to investigate whether the ferry service is appropriately staffed and help to ensure that this situation will not occur again by referring this letter to relevant council committee.

You will wish to note that a similar letter has also issued to Minister for Infrastructure & CEO Newry, Mourne & Down District Council.

Yours Sincerely,  
Liesa Johnston  
On behalf of Strangford Lough Tourism CIC