

August 5th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 11th August 2025** at **6:00 pm** in **Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall**.

Committee Membership 2025-26

Councillor D Lee-Surginor **Chairperson**

Councillor K Feehan **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor O Hanlon

Councillor G Hanna

Councillor V Harte

Councillor G Kearns

Councillor A Lewis

Councillor S Murphy

Councillor A Quinn

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor J Tinnelly

Councillor H Young

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet: Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism - Committee Meeting Monday 9 June 2025

 [ERT Action Sheet - 09.06.2025.pdf](#)

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For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Officer report on Notice of Motion - Establishment of Arts Working Group

For Decision

 [ERT Report - Establishment of Arts Working Group.pdf](#)

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5.0 Financial Assistance

For Decision

 [ERT Report - Financial Assistance.pdf](#)

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Exempt Appendices

5.1 Financial Assistance Appendices

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 [Appx 1 - Financial Assistance.pdf](#)

Not included

For Discussion/Decision

6.0 PEACEPLUS

 [ERT Report - PEACEPLUS.pdf](#)

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Exempt Appendices

6.1 PEACEPLUS Appendices

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local

Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 Peace Plus Appendix 1 - PEACEPLUS 24 07 2025 - Minutes DRAFT.pdf	Not included
 Peace Plus Appendix 2 - Business Case - verification services.pdf	Not included
 Peace Plus Appendix 3 - Business Case - 1.2 Community facilities.pdf	Not included
 Peace Plus Appendix 4 - Business Case - 1.3 shared outdoor spaces.pdf	Not included
 Peace Plus Appendix 5 - Business Case - 1.3 development of walking trails.pdf	Not included

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

7.0 Artisan Markets

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ERT Report - Artisan Markets.pdf	Not included
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8.0 BRCD Annual Report

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ERT Report - BRCD Annual Report.pdf	Not included
 Appx. BRCD Annual Report 24-25.pdf	Not included

9.0 Rural Business Development Grants Scheme

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 ERT Report - Rural Business Dev Grant Scheme.pdf	Not included
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10.0 Eats & Beats Grant Application

For Information

 *ERT Report - Eat and Beats Grant Application.pdf*

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11.0 ERT Scheme of Delegation 2024-2025

For Information

 *ERT Scheme of Delegation Apr 2024 - March 2025.pdf*

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12.0 Heritage, Culture and Creativity Programme

For Information

 *ERT Report - Heritage, Culture and Creativity Programme.pdf*

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 *Appx - Heritage, Culture and Creativity Programme.pdf*

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13.0 Kilkeel Lower Square/River Walk EI Scheme

For Information

 *ERT Report - Kilkeel Lower Square & River Walk EI Scheme.pdf*

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14.0 Multiply Programme Delivery

For Information

 *ERT Report - Multiply Programme Delivery.pdf*

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 *Appx - Multiply Programme Delivery.pdf*

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15.0 Museum Accreditation

For Information

 *ERT Report - Museum Accreditation.pdf*

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16.0 China – NI Sister City Cooperation Seminar

For Information

 *ERT Report - ChinaNI Sister-City Cooperation Seminar.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Ms Michelle Boyle

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Ms Sonya Burns

Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Ms Louise Dillon

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Ms Catherine Hughes

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Joanne/Noelle Johnston

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Josephine Kelly

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Jonathan McGilly

Ms Tracie McLoughlin

Ms Aveen McVeigh
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Mrs Amanda Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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Cllr Helena Young
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ACTION SHEETECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2024

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/080/2024	Down County Museum Café	it was agreed that Council undertake a tender process to appoint a suitably experienced operator to deliver catering services at Down County Museum.	A Smyth	In progress – works progressed to prepare for café facility – EOI to be issued Autumn	Y

ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 14 APRIL 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/030/2025	CMAP Advanced Mooring System	The following was agreed: • To note Coastal Monitoring and Adaptation Plan Project (CMAP) grant award – 1 April 2025 for 48 months • To approve the completion of required documentation, including partnership agreement with Ulster University and associated legal agreements to allow commencement of CMAP. • To commence the recruitment process for 1 FTE according to the terms and conditions of the Letter of Offer. • To approve the Business Case for the implementation of the Advanced Mooring Systems project which is the identified lead partner for the Coastal Monitoring and Adaptation Plan Project.	A Smyth	Implementation of recommendations underway	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/031/2025	Go Succeed Update	The following was agreed: - To note the update provided on the implementation of Go Succeed 2024/25 - To approve Council entering into a MoU / Collaboration agreement with Belfast City Council (subject to Legal approval) to guarantee implementation of Go Succeed in 2025/26.	A Smyth	In Progress	Y
ERT/033/2025	Financial Assistance Call 1	It was agreed to allocate the letters of offer to projects as per Council policy to the groups recommended for the award of funding within the budget allocation	A Smyth	Implementation of recommendations underway	Y

ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 12 MAY 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/042/2025	Arts Outreach Programme	the following was agreed: • To deliver an Artist Bursary Programme, awarding Letters of Offer to 6 bursaries. • To deliver 2 Artist Bursaries through a Service Level Agreement with the John Hewitt Programme • To deliver a Theatre Company in Residence Programme, establishing a Service Level Agreement for delivery against KPIs between June 2025 and March 2026 • To deliver an Artist in Residence programme, establishing a Service Level Agreement for delivery against KPIs between September 2025 and March 2026 • To support a Schools Shared Education Project through issue of a Letter of Offer for implementation of a Streets Mural Arts Project.	A Smyth	Implementation of recommendations underway	Y
ERT/044/2025	Kilkeel Chamber	it was agreed to approve the establishment of a Service Level Agreement with Kilkeel Chamber to deliver three artisan markets in 2025/26.	A Smyth	Underway	Y
ERT/046/2025	Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme	it was agreed to issue Service Level Agreements for the delivery of 3 Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Legacy phase projects as set out in section 2 and 4 of the Officers Report, to include: • Workshop Teaching Space – SLA with Mountain Ways Ireland • Heritage across the Generations – SLA with Rural Health Partnership • Ring of Gullion Heritage Festival – SLA with Oriel Events	A Smyth	Underway	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/047/2025	Young Enterprise NI	it was agreed to issue a Letter of Offer to Young Enterprise NI to deliver the "Building Aspirations" project in 25/26.	A Smyth	Underway	Y
ERT/048/2025	Newry River Channel Markers	it was agreed to approve that Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with Carlingford Lough Commission (CLC) to maintain 10 Navigational Markers within the Newry River from Narrow Water to Victoria Lock Gates.	A Smyth	Underway	Y
ERT/049/2025	Tyrella Beach – Season Parking Permit	it was agreed to approve the proposal to continue to operate a seasonal carpark permit at Tyrella Beach	A Smyth	Underway	Y

ECONOMY, REGENERATION & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 9th June 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/054/2025	Action Sheet Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting Monday 12 th May 2025	it was agreed to note the Action Sheet arising from the Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on Monday 12 May 2025.	C Mallon	Noted	Y
ERT/055/2025	To agree start times for Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meetings 2025-26	The start times for Economy, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meetings 2025-26 were agreed.	C Mallon	Agreed	Y
ERT/056/2025	Outdoor revamp of Delamont Country Park	The following was agreed: - To note the progression against delivery of the Delamont Country Park – Masterplan that seeks to deliver against the vision that Delamont Country Park is developed as a landmark outdoor tourist attraction and “<i>Window to Strangford Lough</i>” - To proceed with the project as set out in the Masterplan and Business case presented to SFWG on the 20th May 2025, subject to capital funding approval at SPR on 12 June 2025. - To commission a market research study, including detailed costings, to assess the viability of developing a major outdoor adventure experience at Delamont Country Park and identify gaps in the current market.	A Smyth	Underway	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/057/2025	ERT Business Plans	It was agreed to approve the Assessment of the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2024 – 25 and the ERT Directorate Business Plan 2025-26.	C Mallon	Actioned	Y
ERT/058/2025	DBEC Business Case for Marketing	It was agreed to approve the business case, and to approve the procurement and appointment of a communications and engagement partner to support DBEC brand development and event delivery.	C Mallon	In progress	Y
ERT/059/2025	Geopark Interpretation Masterplan	It was agreed to approve the adoption of the Interpretation Masterplan for the Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark as the framework for all future interpretation development across the Geopark.	A Smyth	Completed	Y
ERT/060/2025	Labour Market Partnership	The following was agreed: - To approve the acceptance of Department for Communities Letter of Offer for Newry, Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership, Skills and Employability activities including administration and operational budget as set out in Appendix 2 of the Officer's Report. - To approve the business case for the implementation of Newry, Mourne and Down Labour Market Partnership Action Plan for 2025/26. - On acceptance of the Letter of Offer, approval to proceed with the necessary procurements required and appointment of delivery agents to implement the initiatives outlined in appendix documents.	A Smyth	Completed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/061/2025	Local Economic Partnership	The following was agreed: • Sign and accept a Letter of Offer for implementation of the Local Economic Partnership. • Sign and accept a Memorandum of Understanding with Department for Economy for the implementation of the Local Economic Partnership. • To commence recruitment of associated secretariat resource.	A Smyth	Underway	Y
ERT/062/2025	PEAT Plus Project	The following was agreed: • Accept and return the required documentation to Ulster Wildlife/SEUPB, including but not limited to partnership agreement, Letter of Offer and legal agreements to allow the commencement of Peat Plus. • Commence the recruitment process of 1FTE officer according to the terms and conditions of the Letter of Offer. • Approve the business case for implementation and proceed to carry out the required procurement exercises in line with NMDDC and PEACEPLUS procurement policies for the implementation of the project.	A Smyth	Underway	Y
ERT/063/2025	Tourism Trade Consumer Shows 2025 / 26	It was agreed to participate in the tourism trade and consumer shows outlined in section 2,1 of the Officer's Report in collaboration with Tourism NO and Tourism Ireland to support the tourism sector and promote the destination.	A Smyth	Underway	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
ERT/064/2025	Financial Assistance Call 2 and 3	The following was agreed: - To approve the issue of Letters of Offer to projects as per Council Policy to the groups recommended for the award of funding within the budget allocation for each theme. - To approve the pre-letter of offer conditions must be met prior to issue of full letter of offer and where this is not satisfied, budget to be reallocated. - Open a call for Community Capital works and Minor Items in August 2025. - Capacity building delivered and pro-forma developed to support the application process for Community Capital works and Minor Items.	A Smyth	Underway	Y
ERT/065/2025	PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1 Procurement	The following was agreed: - To note the minutes of the PeacePlus Partnership Board meeting of 22 May 2025 - To approve the business cases and procurement for the following elements of the Action Plan: i. Strand 2.4 Cross Community Civic Pride Environmental Programmes ii. Strand 2.4 Community Action Health & Wellbeing iii. Strand 2.7 Social Prescribing Programmes	A Smyth	Underway	Y
ERT/066/2025	Warrenpoint Front Shore Kiosks	It was agreed that subject to funding approval, Council proceed to undertake the relevant Expression of Interest / Procurement exercise to appoint suitable vendors to take a lease on the kiosks.	A Smyth	EOI to be developed	Y
ERT/067/2025	AONB & GEOPARK Update 2024/25	It was agreed to note the 24/25 update on the AONB and Geopark progress.	A Smyth	Completed	Y

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th August 2025
Subject:	Notice of Motion: Arts Working Group
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	X	For noting only	
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> - To approve the recommendation in 3.1 of the report <u>Background</u> Notice of Motion – Establishment of Arts Working Group C/097/2025 Motion received from Councillor Finn: - That NMDDC recognises the impact that regional inequalities in funding has had on our district’s arts sector, acknowledges the support that artists, creatives and groups require and the gap in what they will need in the future, particularly given the closure of Newry Town Hall, and seek to establish an arts working group to provide support and create a roadmap for the sector across our district. The Motion was referred to Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6
2.0	Key issues
2.1	- Nominations from party leaders have been sought for the establishment of an Arts Working Group - The Arts Working Group will include elected members and officers of Council; - Terms of Reference will be developed for consideration at the first meeting of this Working Group. - In addition to the context of the above Notice of Motion, the working group will also be engaged on the implementation and future operation of arts facilities across the council - A working group exists in Newry to support the Newry City Centre Regeneration Theatre Conference project, this includes representation across a range of arts sectors.

3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To progress the establishment of the Arts Working Group
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Nil
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐

7.0	Appendices
	n/a
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

Report to:	Economy Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 August 2025
Subject:	Financial Assistance
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director ERT
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sonya Stephenson – Head of Programmes

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> i. To approve that Financial Assistance Call 1, Revenue for 2026/2027 will open in November 2025. The call will be opened, and managed subject to confirmation of budgets both internal and external for 2026/27 ii. To approve the outcome of the updated assessment in Financial Assistance 2025/2026 call - themes VJ Day and Arts and Culture which are summarised at appendix 1. <u>Background</u> As per the financial assistance review we are now implementing 2 calls per year starting with revenue themes and then the second call will be capital themes. Section 2.2 below sets out the proposal for management of the revenue and capital financial assistance calls for 2026 / 2027, subject to rate estimate process and confirmation on budget availability.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	<u>Update on Financial Assistance 2025/2026</u> • <u>Capital</u> As agreed at June 2025 ERT, the final call for Community capital works and items will open 26th August with workshops being hosted across the first two weeks in September. Further details will be issued across social media and through email databases. • <u>Revenue</u> A review of applications and appeals process has been undertaken for revenue calls. Upon completion of this review we have two applications which have now passed stage two, and are summarised in appendix 1.		
2.2	<u>Opening of Financial Assistance 2026-2027: Revenue</u> • It is proposed to open this call with related workshops in November 2025 with a closure of mid January 2026.		

	• Due to the volume of applications and themes they will be broken into two tranches for assessment and recommendations to Committee. • These will be included within the guidance notes to provide applicants with information on the timeline. • The following themes are the normal revenue themes however these are subject to confirmation of budgets both internal and external and are broken down by Department. There may be other additional themes which will be added at the time of the call and committee will be notified at the next available meeting. <u>Sustainability and Environment:</u> • Local Biodiversity Enhancement • Suicide Prevention and Emotional Wellbeing • Community Grow Programme <u>Active Healthy Communities:</u> • Community Summer Schemes • Community Engagement • Good Relations • Community Festivals (Inc. Summer, Halloween and Christmas) • Policing, Community Safety Partnership • Sports Programmes • Ending Violence Against Woman and Girls • Defibrillators for sports clubs <u>Economy Regeneration Tourism:</u> • Arts & Culture • Tourism Events <u>Corporate Services:</u> • Irish Language • Minority Communities <u>ERT Themes</u> For the two ERT Theme: Due to the high volume of applications in 2025/2026 resulting in a large scored and ranked list, Officers in advance of opening the 2026/2027 financial assistance calls, will review the upper threshold to enable more projects to be suitably supported. The upper threshold of maximum award is currently £15,000 for Tourism Events and £10,000 for Arts & Culture. <u>Scored and ranked</u> For all themes: Where applications have passed however there is not sufficient budget available, they will be placed on a scored and ranked list. Should further in-year money become available then, if appropriate, we will move to the next applicant on the list. When applicants are placed on this list they are advised to undertake the necessary procurement and payments to ensure they are able to claim the funds if in year budget becomes available.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	- To approve that Financial Assistance Call 1, Revenue for 2026/2027 will open in November 2025. The call will be opened, and managed subject to confirmation of budgets both internal and external for 2026/27 - To approve the outcome of the updated assessment in Financial Assistance 2025/2026 call - themes VJ Day and Arts and Culture which are summarised at appendix 1.

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Funding will be allocated from internal Council Budget and external funders where applicable as agreed by council.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐

7.0	Appendices
	This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business@ Appendix 1: Summary of updated Financial assessment outcome – 2025/2026
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 August 2025
Subject:	PEACEPLUS Theme 1.1
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director Economy, Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sonya Stephenson – Head of Programmes Sarah McClory – Project Coordinator

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>X</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>		For decision	X	For noting only	
For decision	X	For noting only			
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board on 24 th July 2025 as attached to this report. To approve the attached business cases and procure the following elements of the Action Plan. i. Strand 1.2 Enhancement of community facilities ii. Strand 1.3 Development of shared outdoor spaces iii. Strand 1.3 Development of walking trails iv. Management verification services under the SEUPB framework. <u>Background</u> The PEACEPLUS Partnership met on 24 th July 2025. The recommendations arising from these meetings require ERT Committee approval. Minutes are attached and recommendations outlined in Section 3 below both of which have been ratified by the Partnership.				
2.0	Key issues				
2.1	<u>Local Action Plan – Implementation</u> • The implementation of the Action Plan has commenced. • SEUPB’s electronic management system, JEMS, has transferred from application stage to claims and reporting function.				
2.2	<u>Procurement of External Controller Requirements</u> • Successful PEACEPLUS projects are required to engage an independent / external Controller to carry out risk-based management verifications on their incurred project expenditure • SEUPB as Managing Authority of the PEACEPLUS Programme established a Framework Agreement to provide arrangements for Management Verifications (also referred to as Controller Function) to be carried out via a decentralised model. • We are required to identify a controller from this framework to carryout First Level Controller (FLC) on a call off basis and attached business case supports the need for procurement of this contract.				

	The formation of the Call of Contract must be signed by the Lead Partner and the External Controller prior to forwarding to SEUPB for final signature.
2.3	<u>Project delivery</u> The Partnership will commence procurement against the below strands of delivery of which the business plans are attached. - Strand 1.2 Enhancement of Community facilities - Following a public expression of interest process community projects were selected to enhance new or existing facilities which would enable increased levels of cross community interaction and service provision. Projects selected received full council approval on the 8th April 2024. - Strand 1.3 Development of shared outdoor spaces - Following a public expression of interest process community projects were selected to develop outdoor spaces which would enable increased levels of cross community interaction and where possible capitalise on natural spaces. Projects selected received full council approval on the 8th April 2024. - Strand 1.3 Development of walking trails - Following a public expression of interest process community projects were selected to develop walking trails. Projects selected received full council approval on the 8th April 2024.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	- To approve the minutes of the PEACEPLUS Partnership on 24th July 2025 which are attached at Appendix 1 to this report. - To approve the business case for procurement of a First Level Controller to provide management verification services under the SEUPB framework. - Approval for business cases attached. - Business case for Strand 1.2 Enhancement of community facilities - Business case for Strand 1.3 Development of shared outdoor spaces - Business case for Strand 1.3 Development of walking trails
4.0	Resource implications SLA with our Delivery Partner SERC to the value of €983,912.37
4.1	Revenue/Payroll: Project 85% funded by the EU and 15% by the two Governments
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒

5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
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6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
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7.0	Appendices
	The below items are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business. Appx. 1 PEACEPLUS Partnership Board minutes 24th July 2025 (ratified) Appx. 2 Business case for management verification services under the SEUPB framework.. Appx.3 Business case for Strand 1.2 Enhancement of community facilities (full budget approval 8th April 2024) Appx.4 Business case for Strand 1.3 Development of shared outdoor spaces (full budget approval 8th April 2024) Appx 5. Business case for Strand 1.3 Development of walking trails (full budget approval 8th April 2024)
8.0	Background Documents

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th August 2025
Subject:	Eats and Beats Grant Application to DAERA (Northern Ireland Regional Food Programme)
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eoin McCartan (Events Manager)

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To advise members that Officers have been successful in a funding application to DAERA to support the `Meet the Producers` element at this year's Eats and Beats Festival <u>Background</u> Eats and Beats Festival is an annual Tourism Event held in Newcastle, County Down, that combines local culinary delights with live music performances. Set against the scenic backdrop of the Mourne Mountains, the festival features over 40 local and Northern Irish artisan food producers, live cookery demonstrations, and a diverse lineup of musical acts across two stages. The event draws thousands of visitors each year, offering a vibrant atmosphere that highlights the region's rich cultural and gastronomic heritage.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	A new element has been developed for Eats and Beats called `Meet the Producer`. A funding application for £4,735 was submitted and successfully approved for funding by DAERA `Northern Ireland Food Programme` to contribute towards the cost of this element of the event It will consist of a shared marquee space where Northern Ireland's artisan food and drink producers can: • Showcase and sample their products. • Engage directly with consumers through demonstrations and storytelling.

	• Educate the public about local sourcing, sustainable practices, and traditional food production methods. • This initiative supports the core objectives of the Northern Ireland Regional Food Programme, particularly in promoting regional food and increasing consumer awareness of locally sourced, high-quality products. Objectives of the Event Feature • Promote local produce to a wide and diverse audience. • Support small and emerging food businesses in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. • Foster consumer-producer connections to strengthen regional food networks. • Highlight sustainable and traditional production methods. • Boost economic visibility for Northern Ireland's agri-food sector.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To advise members that Officers have been successful in a funding application to DAERA to support the `Meet the Producers` element at this year's Eats and Beats Festival
4.0	Resource implications
	£4,735 funding secured against costs associated with Eats and Beats festival
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐

5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Category 6

Any other decisions such as those with political, media or industrial relations implications that Directors consider Members should be aware of.

Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Dept.

Info on event/agreement	Contact Name	Date of agreement/approval	Decision made by Director	Costs/requirements
12 Apr – 5 Sept 202 Request to Use Council Land – Kilbroney Park for 'Leave no Trace' Awareness Courses	Walk the Mournes	04.04.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance and associated costs where applicable
16 th Apr – 30 th Sept 2024 Licence Agreement for storing temporary containers at Warrenpoint Baths	East Coast Adventure Ltd	16.04.2024	Approved	As per the Terms and Conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement
20 & 21 st Apr 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Cranfield Beach for Paddle Boarding	Geology Rocks Adventrue	19.04.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance and associated costs where applicable
20 th Apr 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Cranfield Beach for Hot Sauna	Mourne Hot Barrell Sauna	16.04.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance and associated costs where applicable
21 st Apr 2024 – Event Licence for use of Newry Towpath for Charity Walk	Southern Area Hospice	11.03.2024	Approved	Subject to Terms and Conditions within signed Licence Agreement. Terms and Conditions within signed Licence Agreement.
25 th Apr 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Kilbroney Park for Running event	Newcastle AC	10.04.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance and associated costs where applicable. Terms and Conditions within signed Licence Agreement.
25 th Apr 2024 Request to Use Council Land –	BBC NI	23.04.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan;

Yellow Water Rostrevor for filming				Insurance and associated costs where applicable
27 th Apr 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Delamont Country Park for training on bird surveys	British Trust for Ornithology	16.02.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance and associated costs where applicable
4 th & 5 th May 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Kilbroney Youth Camp Site for youth camp	Stand Up to Mental Health	11.04.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance and associated costs where applicable. Terms and Conditions within signed Licence Agreement.
10 th May 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Tyrella Beach for filming	NI Screen	18.04.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance and associated costs where applicable
18 th May 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Castlewellan Lake for Filming Rescue training exercises	Waddell Media	17.05.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance and associated costs where applicable
22, 29 May 5 th June 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Camlough Lake & Carpark area for Aquathlon (Swim & Run)	Newry Triathlon Club	17.05.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. As per the Terms and Conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement
25 th May 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Leitrim Lodge to Batt's Wall, Yellow Water for Mountain Race	Newry Athletic Club	16.04.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Terms and Conditions within signed Licence Agreement.

1 st June 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Kilbroney Park for Mourne Way Marathon	26 Extreme Ltd	15.05.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. As per the Terms and Conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement
3 rd June 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Rostrevor Forest wooded area for filming.	Pancake Studios Ltd	30.05.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
8 th June 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Camlough Lake for Crooked Lake Triathlon	Feile Chamlocha	14.05.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. As per the Terms and Conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement
13 th – 15 th June 2024 Request to Use council Land – Kilbroney Park for Vintage Car Show	Kilbroney Lions 2000	16.02.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable and as per the Terms and Conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement
13 th & 14 th June 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Slieve Gullion FP and Camlough Lake for filming.	Macha Media	30.05.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
14 th – 16 th June 2024 Licence Agreement for use of Youth Pitch at Castlewellan Forest Park	1 st Moira Scouts	04.06.2024	Approved	As per the terms and conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement.

21 st June 2024 Request to Use Council land – Newry Towpath for Charity Walk	Southern Area Hospice	30.01.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
21 st & 22 nd June 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Kilbroney Park for orienteering event	Lagan Valley Orienteers	05.06.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. As per the Terms and Conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement
22 nd June & 3 rd July 2024 Request to Use Council Land – 22 nd Narnia 3 rd Castlewellan for filming	Ronin Films	26.06.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
23 rd June 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Castlewellan Forest Park for Triathlon	Newry Triathlon Club	18.06.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per the terms and conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement.
23 rd June & 17 th Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Warrenpoint Beach for water safety skills	Swim Ulster	20.03.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
29 th June, 25 th July, 1 st Aug, 23 rd Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Cranfield Beach for family fun days.	Mae Murray Foundation	10.04.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
30 th June, 13 th July, 26 th July, 3 rd Aug, 30 th Aug 2024	RSPB	07.05.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance,

Request to Use Council Land – Delamont for awareness days				Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
1 st July – 23 rd Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Kilbroney Park (Meadow area) for soccer camp	CF Sports Academy	05.06.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. As per the Terms and Conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement
1 st July – 22 nd July 2024 Licence Agreement for Use of Castlewellan Forest Park for Castlewellan Show on 13 th July 2024.	Castlewellan Agricultural Show Committee	08.07.2024	Approved	As per the Terms and Conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement.
1 st July – 30 th Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Kilbroney Park & Rostrevor Slipway for Summer Camps	Cloughmor Extreme Adventures	24.04.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. As per the Terms and Conditions as set out in the signed Licence Agreement
13 th July 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Albert Basin for Paddleboarding event	Newry BID	08.07.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
17 th – 28 th July 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Lower Green, Strangford for funfair	Bell's Traditional Funfair	30.05.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per the terms and conditions as set out in the signed licence agreement.
20 th & 21 st July 2024	Newry Triathlon Club	01.07.2117024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events

Request to Use Council Land - Kilbroney Park for Triathlon				Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per the terms and conditions as set out in the signed licence agreement.
27 th July 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Kilbroney Park (outside Cloughmore Centre) for public information day	NI Marine Task Force / Ulster Wildlife / Irish Wildlife Trust	11.07.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
3 rd Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Bunker's Hill Walking Trail for walking event.	Outscape	16.07.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
8 th – 13 th Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Delamont for Watersports event & various park activities	Down Coastal Rowing Assoc.	07.05.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
9 th – 11 th Aug 2024 Licence Agreement for Use of Delamont Country Park for Skiffies Festival	D Larmour	10.07.2024	Approved	As per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement
15 th Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Warrenpoint Pier / Breakwater for fireworks display	Warrenpoint Loughside Festival	09.08.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
16 th Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Slieve Gullion for filming	The Duncairn Arts	14.08.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
21 st – 27 th Aug 2024 Request to	Magnus Viking Assoc	09.07.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events

Use Council Land – Delamont for Viking festival				Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement
22 nd – 27 th Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land- Lower Green & Pocket Pk Strangford for Festival	Strangford Festival Committee	08.07.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement
22 nd – 26 th Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Newry Canal & Albert Basin for cruise	Galway Ocean Sports Club (obo Iur Cinn Fleadh)	09.08.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
24 th Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Newry Canal for Newry Water Festival	K Morrow Newry DEA NMDDC	03.07.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
24 th Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Cranfield Beach for Water Safety Event	PCSP - NMDDC	25.07.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
25 th Aug 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Newry Canal for Currach demonstration Newry Fleadh	Carlingford Lough Currach Club	23.08.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
6 th & 7 th Sept 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Castlewellan Forest Park for Triathlon	Olympian Triathlon Club	05.09.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy

				and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement
7 th Sept 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Tyrella Beach for St Patrick's Coast Endurance Race (horses)	Irish Long Distance Riding Association	05.09.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
13 th Sept 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Rossglass Beach Killough for Filming	Hat Trick Ltd	12.09.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
14 th Sept 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Cranfield Beach for Activity Event	Loughs Agency	12.09.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
20 th Sept 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Delamont Country Park for Sponsored Walk	Assumption Grammar School	26.06.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions as set out in the signed licence agreement.
22 nd Sept 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Camlough Lake for Lord & Lady of the Lake Race	CLWF Events	10.10.2024	Retrospective Approval	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
22 nd Sept – 24 Nov 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Newry Canal for Fishing Match	NCFFI	16.09.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable

29 th Sept 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Ballyhorman Car Park for triathlon training -	Down Triathlon Club	05.09.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
12 th Oct 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Delamont Country Park for family walk	DEA – NMDDC	26.09.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
13 th Oct 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Delamont Country Park for horse hack	URRA	05.09.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement.
13 th Oct 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Newcastle & Castlewellan for Marathon	We Run Wild NI	06.09.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement
20 th Oct 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Castlewellan Forest Park for Cross Country Run	Life Adventure	02.10.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement.
23 rd Oct 2024 Request to Use	Loughs Agency	16.10.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events

Council Land – Fairy Glen / Kilbroney Park for group activities				Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
27 th Oct 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Kilbroney Park & MTB Trails for Cycling Event	Cycling Ireland	04.10.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
31 st Oct 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Warrenpoint Breakwater/Pier for Halloween Fireworks display	Vivid Fireworks	28.10.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable.
7 th Dec 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Kilbroney Park for starting point for Charity Tractor Run	Hughes Agri Contracts	22.10.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement.
8 th Dec 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Newry Towpath for 5k walk/run	Newry City Runners	18.11.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable.
22 nd Dec 2024 Request to Use Council Land – Camlough Lake Amenity Area & Carpark for Running Race	D Winters	17.12.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement.
28 th Dec 2024 Request to Use	Newcastle Athletic Club	04.12.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events

Council Land – Castlewellan Forest Park for Running Event				Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement.
19 th Jan 2025 Request to Use Council Land – Delamont Country Park for Cross Country Race	East Down Athletics Club	13.12.2024	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement.
22 nd & 23 rd Jan 2025 Request to Use Council Land – Castlewellan Forest Park & Tyrella Beach for filming	BBC	21.01.2025	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable.
1 st Feb 2025 Request to Use Council Land – Newry Canal & Middlebank for Rowing Race	Newry Rowing Club	09.01.2025	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement.
15 th Feb 2025 Request to Hire Pontoon at Delamont Country Park for Rowing Regatta	Dundrum Coastal Rowing Club	21.01.2025	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable.
13 th March 2025 Request to Use Council Land –	RTE	12.03.2025	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance,

Slieve Gullion for Filming				Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable.
15 th March 2025 Request to Use Council Land – Slieve Gullion for mountain race.	Armagh Athletic Club	13.03.2025	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement.
21 st March 2025 Request to Use Council Land – Slieve Gullion Forest Park for filming	The Hype Factory	14.03.2025	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
23 rd March 2025 Request to Use Council land – Albert Basin for paddle boarding	Geology Rocks Adventure	26.02.2025	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable
29 th March 2025 Request to Use Council Land – Leitrim Lodge to Yellow Water for mountain race	Newry Athletic Club	21.01.2025	Approved	Subject to: Risk Assessment; Events Plan; Site Plan; Insurance, Safeguarding Policy and associated costs where applicable. Also per terms and conditions to be agreed in signed Licence Agreement.

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th August 2025
Subject:	Heritage, Culture and Creativity Programme: Framework document
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note the Heritage, Culture and Creativity Programme: Framework document issued by the Department of Communities <u>Background</u> Minister Lyons launched the Heritage, Culture and Creativity (HCC) Programme in July 2024. Its purpose is to produce a comprehensive suite of policies related to the Department for Communities' responsibilities for the arts, culture and heritage. In its initial phase the HCC Programme will see the development and delivery of new policies focussed on the Arts, Historic Environment, Museums and Public Libraries. The Minister has now published an HCC Programme Framework document, a copy of which is attached for your information. The Framework outlines the context, purpose and direction of the Programme together with an update on progress made. It also includes a set of draft, high-level aims covering each of the four policies and some early indications of programme-wide actions which are already emerging through the work undertaken so far.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	• The Framework is intended as an informative pre-cursor to the public consultations in relation to each policy, which we anticipate beginning in the Autumn • A copy of the frame is attached at appendix 1 for members information
3.0	Recommendations

3.1	To note the Heritage, Culture and Creativity Programme: Framework document issued by the Department of Communities
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Nil
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following:

	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	1) Heritage, Culture and Creativity Programme: Framework document
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Department for Communities:

The Heritage, Culture and Creativity Programme Purpose and Framework

Culture Policy Branch
July 2025



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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Background

1. In Northern Ireland few would disagree that we have a particular awareness of, and a real connection to, our rich cultural heritage and traditions. That has been an important influence on our expression of culture through the arts.
2. We also have a unique, characterful historic environment, formed by thousands of years of human activity. We are proud of it, and we want to protect it for future generations.
3. As well as having a drive to conserve, protect and promote its past, Northern Ireland is home to a modern, outward-facing creative and culture sector which, on an everyday basis, makes a significant contribution to the quality of life of people here, and across the range of Executive priorities and policies.
4. Given that, it is all the more surprising that there is no policy in place in Northern Ireland in relation to the Arts or the Historic Environment; and policies for Museums (Northern Ireland Museums Policy, 2011) and in respect of Public Libraries (Delivering Tomorrow's Libraries, 2006) that are overdue review and replacement.
5. To address the policy vacuum in relation to these important aspects of the Communities portfolio, in July 2024 the Minister announced the introduction of the Heritage, Culture and Creativity (HCC) Programme.
6. However, the new policies being developed through the HCC Programme will not, by themselves, secure the continuing contribution of these sectors. Realising the full potential of culture and the historic environment will also require a reassessment of the nature of Executive investment and the exploration of new avenues of support.
7. Across the past decade, more and more evidence has emerged of the social and economic value of these sectors and their intrinsic importance to individuals, communities and society more generally.
8. Among many other things, studies have found strong evidence for the effectiveness of the arts to support infant social development; for speech and language development amongst infants and children; to support aspects of social cohesion; to improve wellbeing in adults and to reduce physical decline in older age.

9. Recent years have also seen developments in models that support the calculation of the social value of engagement with culture and heritage events and assets, alongside assessment of economic value.
10. For example, a significant study in the UK ¹ has conclusions which include that:
 - The annual monetised general health benefits associated with general culture and heritage engagement in adults aged 30-49 equated to £8.08bn.
 - The impact of cultural participation on mental health in adults aged 30-49 equates to £4.42bn.
 - The annual impact of engagement with cultural venues on depression in adults aged 50+ equates to £3.03bn.
11. Paradoxically, in Northern Ireland across recent years the value of Government support to the sectors has reduced in real terms. For example, the opening budget position for libraries provision in 2015/16 was £29.4m and in 2024/25 it was £31.1m, having dipped to £25m in 2018/19. For the Arts Council of Northern Ireland the opening budget for 2011/12 was £14.1m but in 2023/24 it was £9.7m. Since 2014/15, support for investment in listed buildings has reduced to a fraction of previous levels.
12. These funding challenges have been compounded by the effects of COVID; the impact of high inflation on costs; and the pressure on the disposable incomes of users.
13. The decisions made in terms of public funding to the culture and the historic environment sectors have been a regrettable consequence of the need to prioritise spending in other crucial areas, such as health and education.
14. Nonetheless, evidence from stakeholders points to the cumulative impact of the funding position as leading to reductions in service provision; to risks to organisational viability; and to lost potential. The Department's own evidence, published in the "Survey on the Condition of Listed Buildings"² points to significant increases in the deterioration of our built heritage.
15. That reality reveals both the nature of the challenge for the HCC Programme and what is at stake.

¹ [Monetising the Impact of Culture and Heritage on Wellbeing](#)

² [Survey on the Condition of Listed Buildings | Department for Communities](#)

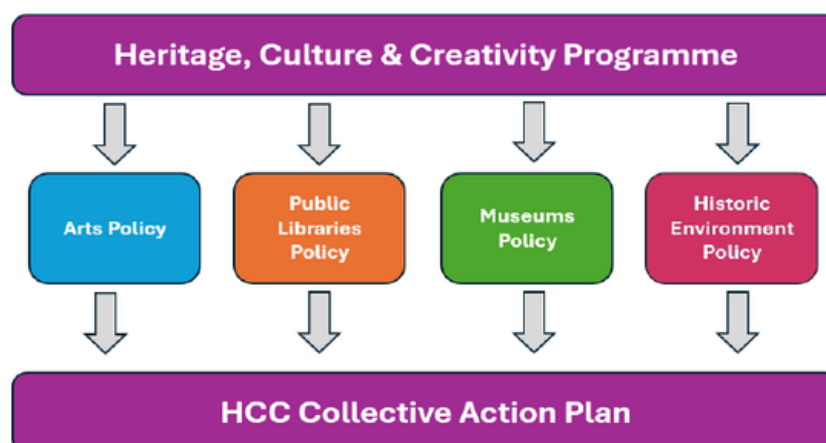
16. The HCC Programme must demonstrate and develop the connections between investment in our heritage, culture and creativity sectors and progress on the wider objectives of Department for Communities and the Executive – so that to prioritise one is not exclusive of the other. It needs to do so to maintain important services and organisations in our arts and cultural sectors and to retain heritage otherwise at risk.
17. The introduction of the HCC Programme is an important contribution to the Minister’s commitment to the continued funding of the culture and heritage sectors in Northern Ireland and to highlighting the range and depth of the contribution the sectors can make in the achievement of objectives across the Executive.

The HCC Programme: Purpose and Approach

18. The HCC Programme provides a focal point for the Minister’s responsibilities across culture and the historic environment. It is the platform to connect with, and influence, relevant policies, strategies and actions across the Executive departments, in local government and more widely. It will do this through, among other things:
 - The development of a strong framework that will support the growth of the contribution of our culture and historic environment; the appreciation of this contribution and the role of the Department as a focal point for this, helping it to significantly influence relevant strategies across central and local government;
 - The development of a coherent, comprehensive package of policies;
 - The design and delivery of relevant actions arising from policy;
 - The monitoring of policy implementation through a common action plan and the evaluation of impact of actions under the policies.
19. The approach taken in the HCC Programme gives each of the constituent subjects and sectors the recognition and status they merit. It also ensures that each of the communities of interest has its own focus, while supporting and encouraging the connections and commonalities that run through and across them.
20. Work on the first phase of the HCC Programme is underway and is centred on the development of new policies in respect of the Minister’s responsibilities for the Arts

and for the Historic Environment. This will build on the important foundations and the extensive engagement and consultation that was undertaken by the Culture, Arts and Heritage Taskforce.

21. The first phase also includes the review and renewal of policies in respect of Public Libraries and of Museums.



22. The design of the HCC Programme means it is capable of expansion to accommodate emerging priorities. Future phases will include work with the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland on a policy on Archives; and in relation to the creative industries, where DfC shares some important interests with the Department for the Economy in digital and screen arts.

Coherence and Common Structure

23. The differences in nature, structure and scale of the sectors being addressed through the HCC Programme mean that a strictly uniform approach to presentation of the policies is unlikely to be achievable. However, to support the coherence of the policies and reflect the connections and links across the Programme, the policy development process is underpinned by a set of guiding principles which is a common thread through the HCC policy suite.
24. Those principles are that the sectors and their activities should:
 - be valued by all;
 - be inclusive, recognising and respecting the diverse makeup of our society;
 - support equitable access to, and opportunity for, participation;
 - enhance the lives of people and communities;
 - support sustainability in the face of economic and environmental challenges.

Policy Aims and Stakeholder Engagement

25. Work to develop each of the policies in phase one has been underway since the Minister launched the HCC Programme in July 2024 and is well advanced.
26. Each policy in the HCC Programme will have at its core a set of policy aims from which actions, measures etc will flow. The policy aims will be captured in a matrix based across three broad themes of: People & Communities; Places; and Partnerships - these reflect the Programme for Government's missions of People, Planet, Prosperity. Drawing on the approach of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Taskforce, strengthening, connecting, and innovating will be applied as the primary policy drivers and to complete the policy matrix.
27. Draft policy aims for Arts, Historic Environment, Museums and Public Libraries are included in the attachment to this document.
28. The draft aims have been identified through a programme of stakeholder engagement, review of evidence and assessment of approaches and experience in neighbouring jurisdictions. In relation to Arts and Historic Environment, the work of the Culture, Arts and Heritage Taskforce, and particularly its extensive stakeholder engagement, has provided an important foundation for the work.
29. Given the various, important roles that local government plays, the Department has met with each of the district councils. Those engagements covered all four policy areas and have added a valuable dimension to the understanding of perceptions, current involvement and the potential to do more.
30. There is an increasing acknowledgement of the impact that the people and organisations in the sectors covered by the HCC Programme make across the range of Executive priorities and policies. As such, engagement within the Department for Communities, across other Executive Departments and with key non-departmental public bodies has been an invaluable aspect of this stage.
31. Each policy will be subject to its own public consultation exercise over the course of the remainder of 2025. The intention is that these consultations will allow the public and those with a community and professional interest to help shape the final policies.

The Identification of Actions

32. It is expected that each policy will include a number of actions emerging through the consideration of evidence and the development of policy aims. For the most part these are likely to be specific to the policy area in which they were identified
33. However, in the course of the work so far, a number of issues and opportunities have already been identified which resonate across more than one policy area and where some form of programme-wide approach may offer the best response.
34. Five such programme-wide issues have so far emerged and are outlined below. Responding to these issues and opportunities is likely to form a significant aspect of the actions arising from the first phase of the HCC Programme. As such their inclusion in this framework document is intended to offer an insight into the sorts of practical issues and actions which are emerging in the consideration of the new policies.
35. The current programme-wide issues emerging are:
 - Research and evidence: the potential for the development of an ongoing HCC research programme to explore factors including assessing social value and economic impact; understanding and sharing the growing evidence of tangible health and other impacts of participation in HCC activity; and the benefits of strategic and partnership approach to research across interested sectors;
 - Skills: the need to develop a skills strategy for the sectors, to assess current and future need and the potential means to meet demand and opportunity and to cover the entire range of the sectors, including community and grassroots in such an exercise;
 - Funding; the potential for new approaches to broaden the sources of funding to the sectors, including exploration of the potential for philanthropic funding;
 - Capital Strategy: the potential value of a cross-sector capital investment strategy, to take account of maintenance, access, health & safety and environmental needs as well as developing a programme of strategic development; and
 - Collaboration and partnership: provide support and opportunity for organisational development and collaboration across the HCC Programme through conferencing, networking and the development of practical support for joint initiatives and new partnerships.

36. The emerging policies and the potential of new developments and collaborations across the HCC Programme sectors have also highlighted the differences in approach to the development and funding structures in the sectors – which encompass the Arts Council; the NI Museums Council; and DfC’s responsibilities for the historic environment.
37. The development of ten-year policies for government support for the HCC sectors presents a timely opportunity to consider how that support is delivered. On that basis the merits of a review of the current development and funding structures are being considered as part of the HCC Programme. There is no pre-determined outcome for this exercise and, if change was ultimately favoured, the varying natures of current delivery models and the need for legislation to make change mean implementation would take a considerable period of time.
38. Actions emerging from each of the policies, and any Programme-wide measures, will be captured through a collated action-planning approach. This will be published and provide a vehicle for monitoring and reporting progress on implementation of the HCC Programme.

	HCC Policy Goals	People and Communities	Places	Partnerships
Arts	Strengthen: <i>Build resilience</i> <i>Grow capacity</i> <i>Ensure sustainability</i>	- Investing in the arts sector and its people - Supporting jobs, skills, capacity building and resilience - Enabling opportunities for creative learning for children and young people	- Supporting strategic capital investment across the sector - Valuing the contribution of the arts in place shaping and quality of life	- Demonstrating the value and impacts of the sector to government outcomes - Working in partnership across government to address regulatory and legislative issues
	Connect: <i>Realise potential</i> <i>Build connections</i> <i>Forge partnerships</i>	- Supporting accessibility, diversity, inclusion, and promoting equality of opportunity - Valuing the contribution of grassroots community and voluntary organisations	- Maximising North/South, East/West and international creative connections - Recognising the contribution of the arts to cultural identity, community cohesion and good relations	- Collaborating across organisational boundaries to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes - Developing a sectoral research and evidence work-strand
	Innovate: <i>Foster innovation</i> <i>Fuel growth</i> <i>Increase reach</i>	- Driving research and innovation, and embracing new technologies - Supporting the development of high-quality artistic works and opportunities for showcasing	Exploring culture led regeneration approaches in relation to securing creative spaces	Recognising the arts for contributions to innovative solutions to economic, social and environmental issues

HCC Policy Goals		People and Communities	Places	Partnerships
Museums	Strengthen: <i>Build resilience</i> <i>Grow capacity</i> <i>Ensure sustainability</i>	- Supporting positive health and wellbeing through engagement and participation. - Inspiring creativity and supporting opportunities for life-long learning.	- Providing safe, accessible and inclusive spaces for everyone. - Preserving local histories including collections, traditional skills and crafts, and stories for people and communities.	- Demonstrating the value of the museum sector in meeting government outcomes. - Investing to support a vibrant and connected accredited museums sector.
	Connect: <i>Realise potential</i> <i>Build connections</i> <i>Forge partnerships</i>	Supporting access to trusted information and resources.	Celebrating and representing cultural diversity through collections, programming and storytelling.	Working with others to preserve, grow and celebrate local heritage, arts and culture.
	Innovate: <i>Foster innovation</i> <i>Fuel growth</i> <i>Increase reach</i>	Working innovatively to drive participation and engagement	Contributing to the public awareness of Northern Ireland's environmental challenges through sustainable operations, local actions and provision of information and resources	Working innovatively with others to support positive outcomes for people and communities.

HCC Policy Goals		People and Communities	Places	Partnerships
Libraries	Strengthen: <i>Build resilience</i> <i>Grow capacity</i> <i>Ensure sustainability</i>	- Promoting the benefits of reading and contributing to improved literacy. - Supporting positive health and wellbeing through engagement and participation. - Inspiring creativity and supporting opportunities for life-long learning. - Contributing to the development of children and young people.	Preserving, growing and promoting local heritage collections.	- Demonstrating the value of the public library sector in meeting government outcomes. - Investing to deliver a comprehensive and efficient public library service.
	Connect: <i>Realise potential</i> <i>Build connections</i> <i>Forge partnerships</i>	- Growing library membership and encouraging engagement and participation. - Supporting access to trusted information and resources. - Supporting digital inclusion.	Providing safe, accessible and inclusive spaces for everyone.	Working with others to support and celebrate local heritage, arts and culture.
	Innovate: <i>Foster innovation</i> <i>Fuel growth</i> <i>Increase reach</i>	Responding innovatively to meet the aspirations and transformational needs of a modern and evolving public library service.	Contributing to the public awareness of Northern Ireland's environmental challenges through sustainable operations, local actions and provision of information and resources.	Working innovatively with others to support positive outcomes for people and communities.

HCC Policy Goals		People and Communities	Places	Partnerships
Historic Environment	Strengthen: <i>A well- cared for historic environment where best practice is the norm.</i>	- Developing a highly skilled workforce to enhance and sustainably develop our historic environment - Adopting best practice to identify and safeguard our historic environment in line with guidance, legislation and international charters	- Empowering communities to use their historic environment as a resource to meet local needs. - Investing in the care and re-use of our historic environment as a finite resource to drive regeneration	- Using historic assets as a resource to meet a range of government outcomes - Evolving our understanding through survey, recording, research, and accessible artefacts and archives – and sharing it with everyone
	Connect: <i>Thriving places - where the unique value of heritage is understood and enjoyed.</i>	- Reaching out: supporting inclusive and diverse histories and heritage activity for inspiration, learning and enjoyment. - Supporting inclusive and diverse access to historic places for everyone	- Ensuring that well cared for and managed heritage assets contribute to high quality rural and urban places, landscapes, coastal and marine landscapes supporting biodiversity - Showcasing, promoting and marketing our unique historic environment locally and internationally	- Partnering with arts, museums, libraries and owners of the built and natural environment to promote learning, understanding and people's pride in their own place - Broadening transboundary and international cooperation with the historic environment sector, including exploration of potential philanthropic interest
	Innovate: <i>A flourishing historic environment sector which is protected, sustained, accessed and used to its full potential.</i>	- Exploring the potential for quality historic places to support wellbeing and quality of life - Emphasising the contribution of our historic places to peace - cultural identity, community cohesion, good relations and healing through heritage	- Maximising the role of councils, community or voluntary groups, voluntary organisations and individuals in the promotion, protection and enjoyment of their heritage assets - Capitalizing on the management of the historic environment in the face of environmental challenges	- Collaborating with others to create and strengthen an evidence base for investment in the historic environment - Driving innovation in the historic environment sector towards research, new analysis, new technologies and digital development

Report to:	Economy Regeneration & Tourism Committee (ERT)
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th August 2025
Subject:	Kilkeel Lower Square and River Walk EI Scheme
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan McGilly Assistant Director ERT
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Seamus Crossey, Project Manager, Regeneration & Aveen McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either -		
For decision	For noting only	x
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note the recommendations in 3.1 of this report. <u>Background</u> In early/mid 2024 Council completed a Feasibility Study (RIBA Stage 0-1) that sets out the costings and works needed to take forward this project. The nature of the works will involve an overall town centre River Enhancement/Clean up, upgrade of the adjacent Toilet Block & Public Square, installation of new Pedestrian Footbridge, new Lighting, Pathways, Street Furniture, Play-area and Planting from the Square to the Rooney Road Bridge at the Harbour along the Aughrim River that flows through the town centre. Council has now set aside capital plan funding to take forward the Design, Consultation and Planning Stages (RIBA Stages 2-3) of the proposed Kilkeel Lower Square and River Walk EI Scheme. Subject to the successful completion of the RIBA Design Stages 2-3 (Now about to get underway), the Department for Communities (DfC) are keen to provide significant funding to carry out Environmental Improvement works to modernise this central public space and adjacent riverside footway in the centre of Kilkeel. A Steering Committee has been established with Elected Members, Chamber Reps, Council Officers and Department for Communities (DfC) representatives to assist in the development of the scheme.	

2.0	Key issues
2.1	The Task & Finish Steering Group met on 1st August 2025, to obtain an update on the NI Water Aughrim River Works Programme beginning in August 2025 and to understand the timeframe and stages of the follow up EI Scheme in regards taking forward the Design, Consultation and Planning Stages (RIBA Stages 2-3) of the proposed Kilkeel Lower Square and River Walk EI Scheme. Following onsite discussions, it was agreed that the Task & Finish Steering Group would be kept up to date on progress in regards both the upfront NI Water Works and EI Scheme design to follow.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To Note the Recommendations; i. It was agreed to keep the Task & Finish Grouping up to date on NI Water Works progress. ii. Council Officials and DfC to contact Fisheries & River Agencies in advance of the EI Scheme Design in regards the Riverbed. iii. It was agreed that the Task & Finish Steering Group would meet once NI Water works had been concluded and the EI Scheme Consultants were in place. iv. It was agreed that some PR would now be placed on the Councils social media platforms to inform about upcoming works and EI scheme to come.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<u>Kilkeel Lower Square & River Walk EI Scheme</u> • Council Capital - £100,000 (2025/26) and £35,000 (2026/27) for RIBA Design Stages 2-3
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> The project did not have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒

	If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☒ <i>Rationale: Much advance Consultation relating to the project has already been undertaken.</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	Report of Kilkeel Lower Square and River Walk Task & Finish Steering Group meeting held on 1 st August 2025.

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th August 2025
Subject:	Multiply Programme
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-											
For decision		For noting only	X								
1.0	Purpose and Background										
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> i. To note the delivery outcomes of the Multiply Programme 2024/25 contained within section 2.2 of the report ii. To note the correspondence attached from the Department of Economy acknowledging the successful delivery of the programme across the Council area <u>Background</u> Multiply, funded by Department of Economy, aimed to empower adults, over the age of 18 years, with the skills and knowledge they need to achieve personal growth, financial wellbeing, and social engagement. By fostering a supportive learning environment and addressing numeracy, financial literacy and essential life skills the initiatives contributed to a more empowered and inclusive community where individuals can learn, grow and develop the skills they need to navigate everyday challenges. Council submitted a funding bid to deliver a range of initiatives in the 24/25 financial period.										
2.0	Key issues										
2.1	Delivery of the 24/25 Multiply initiatives was provided primarily by NMDDC DEAs via community engagement projects; NMD LMP were responsible for industry upskilling initiatives. Interventions, initiatives and projects with numbers of eligible participants in the 24/25 period was as follows: <table><tr><td>Intervention</td><td>Initiative</td><td>Project</td><td>Number Participants</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			Intervention	Initiative	Project	Number Participants				
Intervention	Initiative	Project	Number Participants								

	Bring your grown up	Families counting together	• Family bootcamp • Family games night • Helping with homework	698
	Counting on You – Industry Upskilling	Numeracy employability academy bolt-ons	• Transport Academy • Manufacturing Academy • Excel with Excel	36
	Engaging Mature Learners – Making it Count	Know your numbers	• Men’s health week	436
		Maths for Life	• Challenge Yourself with Maths • Darts Bootcamp • Home Improvement workshops • Keeping the brain active • Gardening with Measurements	576
	Maths for speakers of other languages	Count in English	• Household budgeting • Pre ESOL Maths • Gardening with maths • Family cookery • Family bootcamp	121
	Numeracy Bootcamps	Make Life Easier with Maths	• Out of the red • Bang on budget • Nutrition • Financial management • Supermarket spies • Travel on a budget	797
	TOTAL			2664

There were 2664 eligible attendees.

Successful outcomes:

2.2

- The Multiply programme achieved a range of successful outcomes by fostering generational learning, increasing family and community engagement in education, and expanding access to practical, relevant numeracy opportunities.
- It enhanced participants confidence in maths, enabling them to support learning, pursue further qualifications, and feel more job-ready through real-world, workplace-related skills.
- Programmes like *Knowing Your Numbers* improved men’s health literacy and numeracy while addressing educational barriers across diverse communities.
- Older adults re-engaged with learning, developing everyday life skills and mental agility, reducing isolation, and gaining independence.

	• Tailored ESOL and numeracy sessions made maths more accessible, while financial literacy components empowered participants to manage budgets, reduce debt, and make healthier lifestyle choices. • Overall, Multiply strengthened social inclusion, built confident communities, and equipped individuals with the tools to manage daily tasks, employment challenges, and personal wellbeing with greater confidence and independence. <u>Recommendations:</u> • The recommendations highlight the importance of a community-based approach to education, delivering programmes in familiar, accessible settings, particularly in areas facing health and education inequalities. • Embracing digital access through online tools and sessions can increase flexibility and reach, especially for those unable to attend in person. • Sustained follow-up support, including refresher courses and progression pathways, is vital for reinforcing learning and encouraging lifelong development. • Strong partnerships with local businesses, voluntary groups, and educational institutions are essential to extend resources and ensure programme sustainability. • Embedding numeracy within vocational training and using practical, job-focused content enhances relevance and reduces anxiety, while community development teams play a critical role in tailoring programmes through trusted local insight. • Additionally, avoiding the word “maths” in recruitment and involving employers in programme design would ensure alignment with real-world needs and maximise participant engagement and outcomes. <u>Limitations:</u> • The Multiply programme faced several limitations that impacted its scalability and long-term effectiveness. Its resource-intensive nature required significant staffing, materials, and logistical support presenting large-scale delivery challenges. • The limited project timescale restricted the depth of participant engagement and the ability to measure long-term outcomes. • Barriers such as work commitments, childcare responsibilities, mobility issues, and social stigma also limited participation and inclusivity. • Additionally, although the programme successfully built confidence and foundational skills in numeracy, it could have further highlighted clear and structured progression pathways into accredited learning or development, reducing opportunities for sustained impact and lifelong learning. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) did not fund Multiply for 25/26.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	i. To note the delivery outcomes of the Multiply Programme 2024/25 contained within section 2.2 of the report

	ii. To note the correspondence attached from the Department of Economy acknowledging the successful delivery of the programme across the Council area.		
4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	Multiply activity was 100% funded by Department of Economy and reflected in Council's 24/25 budget.		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Multiply Initiatives spend</td><td>£156,075</td></tr> </table>	Multiply Initiatives spend	£156,075
Multiply Initiatives spend	£156,075		
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)		
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒		
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐		
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>		
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)		

6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	1) Letter from Department of Economy acknowledging the successful delivery of the programme across the Council area.
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

**From the Office of the Minister
DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA**

Marie Ward
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Marie.Ward@nmandd.org



Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8FD
02890 529333
Private.Office@economy-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: SUB-0416-2025

Date: 02 June 2025

Marie a chara

MULTIPLY PROGRAMME DELIVERY

I am writing to thank you for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's contribution to the success of the Multiply programme. Multiply has supported just over 10,900 individuals to boost numeracy, competence and confidence - an outstanding achievement.

In particular, I know that Patricia McPolin, Aveen McVeigh and Claire Loughran played an instrumental role, and my officials have spoken warmly of their professionalism and dedication to the successful delivery of Multiply over the last year. We are hopeful that there will be a legacy from Multiply, not only in terms of the boost to numeracy skills across the north, but also in terms of the positive collaboration across a range of institutions, departments and public bodies.

Thank you to you and all your staff involved in the delivery of Multiply.

Is mise le meas

**DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA
Minister for the Economy**

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th August 2025
Subject:	NMD Museums' Accreditation
Reporting Officer	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director: Economy Growth and Tourism
Contact Officer	Alan Freeburn Museum and Heritage Services Manager

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note that both Down County Museum and Newry & Mourne Museum have been awarded full accreditation under "The Museum Accreditation Scheme" <u>Background</u> The UK Museum Accreditation Scheme is the nationally agreed standards to ensure all museums are sustainable, focused and trusted, inspiring the confidence of the public and funding and governing bodies. The Accreditation Standard is a handbook for running a successful and forward-looking museum. It is run as a partnership between Arts Council England, Museums Galleries Scotland, NI Museums Council and the Welsh Government. It links directly to Spectrum, the UK Collections Management standard, and the Museum Association Code of Ethics. The requirements cover: • Organisational health • Collections • Users and their experience
2.0	Key issues
2.1	Both Down County Museum and Newry & Mourne Museum have been awarded full accreditation after submitting their most recent returns in April 2025. Gaining accreditation is an endorsement. It shows that the museums are professionally run, sustainable and trustworthy. Having full accreditation status also enables staff to apply for a number of grant schemes that are only open to accredited museums

	While Full Accreditation has been granted to each museum, the accreditation panel has identified a number of areas for development which are to be addressed as part of the museums ongoing accreditation responsibilities. These areas for development are intended to strengthen and sustain each museum's performance and compliance with the accreditation standard and largely relate to service level across NMD Museums rather than specifically for each museum, i.e. audience development.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note that both Down County Museum and Newry & Mourne Museum have been awarded full accreditation under "The Museum Accreditation Scheme"
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Nil
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐

	<i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A

Report to:	Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday 11 th August 2025
Subject:	China–NI Sister-City Cooperation Seminar
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism.
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aveen McVeigh Head of Regeneration and Business Development

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To note attendance of the Council Chairperson and Senior Officer at China–NI Sister-City Cooperation Seminar in the Chinese Consulate General in Belfast. <u>Background</u> In 2018 Council signed Friendly Exchange Agreements with the City of Changchun, the Changchun Municipal Committee of the China Council for the Promotion of Trade. The foundation of this agreement is around mutual co-operation in the areas of trade, commerce, tourism, education, sport and culture. Council have facilitated various visits with Chinese delegates under this agreement.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	In September 2025 the Chair of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) (Vice-Ministerial level), will lead a high-level delegation from China to Northern Ireland to explore new avenues of friendly cooperation. The Chinese Consulate will host a 1-day seminar in bilateral city diplomacy. The Seminar will provide a structured setting to: 1. Review the progress of high-level reciprocal visits under the sister-city framework. 2. Exchange views on emerging priorities in political dialogue, green and digital economy, education, culture, and creative industries. 3. Identify concrete, city-level projects that can be launched or scaled up in 2026. Representatives of the 7 cities in Northern Ireland that currently maintain sister-city partnerships with Chinese cities have been invited to attend along with business

	leaders, universities, and cultural institutions active in bilateral city diplomacy.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To note attendance of the Council Chairperson and Senior Officer at China–NI Sister-City Cooperation Seminar in the Chinese Consulate General in Belfast.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	N/A
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	N/A
8.0	Background Documents
	N/A