

October 18th, 2024

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend a meeting of the

Mid and East Antrim Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee

to be held on **Tuesday, 22nd October 2024 at 6:30 pm** in **Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena** and via remote access.

Yours sincerely



Valerie Watts
Interim Chief Executive, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Agenda

1 NOTICE OF MEETING

2 APOLOGIES

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are invited to declare any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, including gifts and hospitality, they may have in respect of items on this Agenda.

4 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / DECISION

4.1 Presentation from DfI Roads, Northern Division - 2024 Annual Report circulated

The following officials will be in attendance:

Alan Keys - Divisional Roads Manager

Michael Alexander – Acting Section Engineer

Seamus Logue – Section Engineer

 *Annual Report to Mid and East Antrim Council 2024.PDF*

Page 1

4.2 Presentation from SuperCup NI

4.3 Proposed Blue Plaque to John Clifford - Circulated

 *Proposed Blue Plaque to John Clifford.pdf*

Page 54

4.4 Christmas Programming – Tourism, Arts and Culture - Circulated

 *Christmas Programming Tourism, Arts and Culture.pdf*

Page 57

 *Appendix 1 Arts and Culture Guide Autumn 2024.pdf*

Page 60

4.5 Final Grant of Amusement Permit - Circulated

 *Grant of Final Amusement Permit.pdf*

Page 79

4.6	Grant of Pavement Café Licence - Circulated	
	<i>Grant of Pavement Cafe Licence.pdf</i>	Page 82
4.7	Grant of Street Trading Licence - Circulated	
	<i>Grant of Street Trading Licence.pdf</i>	Page 85
4.8	Registration of Skin Piercing Business - Circulated	
	<i>Registration of Skin Piercing Business.pdf</i>	Page 87
4.9	Leisure Services Performance Year to Date 2024-25 - Circulated	
	<i>Leisure Services Performance Year to Date 2024 25.pdf</i>	Page 89
4.10	Proposal for a new Physical Activity Referrals Delivery Model (Moved to Closed - Item 7.4 17.10.24)	
4.11	MEA Automated Emergency Defibrillator Policy - Circulated (17.10.24)	
	<i>MEA Automated Emergency Defibrillator Policy.pdf</i>	Page 93
	<i>Appendix 1 - Draft MEA Policy for Automated External Defibrillators.pdf</i>	Page 96
4.12	Play Park investment Framework Priorities 2025-2027 - Circulated	
	<i>Play Park Investement Framework Priorities 2025-27.pdf</i>	Page 105
	<i>Appendix 1 - Current Play Park Provision.pdf</i>	Page 108
	<i>Appendix 2 - Investment in Play Parks to Date.pdf</i>	Page 109
	<i>Appendix 3 - Play Park Investment Framework 2025.pdf</i>	Page 112
	<i>Appendix 4 - Business Case - Broughshane Play Park - No Signatures.pdf</i>	Page 127
	<i>Appendix 5 - Business Case - Beachlands Play Park - No Signatures.pdf</i>	Page 135
	<i>Appendix 6 - Business Case - Moorfields Play Park - No Signatures.pdf</i>	Page 143
	<i>Appendix 7 - Business Case - Greenisland Play Park - No Signatures.pdf</i>	Page 151

4.13 Parks Development Events Review 2024 – Circulated

Parks Development Events Review 2024.pdf	Page 159
Appendix 1 - Events and Participant Numbers.pdf	Page 163
Appendix 2 - Overview and Feedback.pdf	Page 167
Appendix 3 - Social Media Review.pdf	Page 172

4.14 **** WITHDRAWN**** Environmental Crime 6-month Update (17.10.24)

4.15 Bonfires & Cultural Celebrations Programme 2024 Update - Circulated (17.10.24)

Bonfires & Cultural Celebrations Programme 2024 Update.pdf	Page 175
Appendix 1 - Bonfire & Beacon Sites.pdf	Page 182
Appendix 2 - Awards Summary.pdf	Page 185
Appendix 3 - Breakdown of Council Clean Up Costs.pdf	Page 186

5 ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

6 TABLED QUESTIONS

None.

Closed Committee - In accordance with Council policy, representatives of the Press will not be in attendance for this section of the Meeting.

7 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / DECISION – CLOSED COMMITTEE

7.1 Larne War Memorial – Addition of names of the Fallen from the Second World War - Circulated

Larne War Memorial Addition of names of the Fallen from WW2.pdf	Not included
Appendix 1 Quote for research by History Hub Ulster_Redacted.pdf	Not included
Appendix 2 - Quote for research by WW1 Research Ireland_Redacted.pdf	Not included
Appendix 3 Quote for research by Nigel Henderson.pdf	Not included

7.2 Tourism Marketing Strategic Activity Update - Circulated

 *Tourism Marketing Strategic Activity Update.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 Tourism Marketing Action Plan 2024-2025 Progress Tracker.pdf* *Not included*

7.3 Department for Communities Integrated Advice Partnership Fund - Circulated

 *Dept for Communities Integrated Advice Partnership Fund.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 - Integrated Advice Partnership Fund Information.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 2 - Integrated Advice Partnership Fund Draft Memorandum of Understanding.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 3 - Integrated Advice Partnership Fund Allocation of Funding.pdf* *Not included*


7.4 Proposal for a new Physical Activity Referrals Delivery Model - Circulated (17.10.24) (moved from Open - Item 4.10 17.10.24)

 *Physical Activity Referral Future Delivery Model.pdf* *Not included*

8 ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – CLOSED COMMITTEE

Open Committee

9 Forward Plan for Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee - Circulated (17.10.24)

 *NC Committee - Forward Plan Template v22.pdf* *Page 188*



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Department for

Infrastructure

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

1



DFI ROADS NORTHERN DIVISION

2024 Annual Report to

MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Fisherwick Crescent / St Patricks Barracks

Shared footway / cycleway link

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Foreword by Divisional Manager

I have pleasure in submitting the Roads 2024/25 Annual Report on the work of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads across the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area.

This report deals with works completed across the Council area during the year 2023/24 and sets out our initial proposals for schemes to be undertaken in the year 2024/25.

The road network is Northern Ireland's largest and most valuable strategic infrastructure asset. Getting infrastructure right - and investing in it - can and will deliver real benefits for our citizens, our communities and the economy. It delivers for people every day by providing and maintaining the things we all need to go about our daily lives, and which make this place work. While recognising there is much more to do as we seek to improve and protect the vital asset that is our road network, we are working hard to maximise the positive impacts we can deliver with the resources we have.

The budget allocated to the Department for 2024-25 is challenging, however we continue to prioritise essential frontline services and address regional imbalance. In June 2024 the Department launched its 'Budget 2024-25 Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Consultation' to facilitate a thorough assessment of the equality impacts of the 2024-25 opening resource and capital budgets allocated to the Department. An interim report has been published on the findings from the consultation and can be viewed at: [DfI Budget 2024-25 Equality Impact Assessment - Interim Consultation Report \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

The opening Capital budget for structural maintenance of the road network in 2024/25 is £89m, which will enable the delivery of the highest priority resurfacing, roadside stability and drainage projects. Further details of those projects to be delivered within the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area are contained within this report.

For many years, the Department has operated within a constrained Resource budget and has continued to prioritise key essential services.

This means that the Department will continue with a Limited Service policy for routine maintenance activities such as defect repair, grass cutting and gully emptying. The Limited Service policy allows the Department to repair defects greater than 50mm on all roads including low trafficked rural roads and on high trafficked roads, defects greater than 20mm will also be repaired, subject to available resources. The Department will aim to cut all roadside verges and sightline grass at least twice between April and October on the more heavily trafficked roads and once a year on other roads, when it is safe to do so. This aims to balance the need for road safety while protecting our environment and encouraging biodiversity. However, sightlines at bends and junctions will be cut as frequently as required to ensure public safety.

At present a full street lighting repair service continues during 2024/25.

INTRODUCTION

The Division is continuing to face significant staffing pressures which is impacting on our ability to deliver and as such public safety is our paramount priority, and as a result it may mean other functions will be lower in our priorities. In an effort to maximise our effectiveness I would strongly encourage Councillors who have access to the internet to please report road defects using the DfI online reporting facility provided by NIDirect. My operational teams are of course available to assist with emergency and public safety related queries and can be contacted using our generic email addresses or by phone using our emergency numbers shown on Page 9.

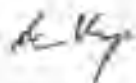
The Department recognises that investing in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure can help make our streets feel safer and more accessible for the many people who want greater choice in how they travel, particularly for shorter everyday journeys. It can also help to reduce air pollution and tackle climate change, particularly in combination with public transport.

We are currently developing a Northern Ireland wide Active Travel Delivery Plan that includes an update of our policies and design guidance for Active Travel as well as network plans for our larger towns and cities and a methodology for prioritising active travel investment in smaller towns and villages. We aim to commence a public consultation on this plan in November and would welcome input from councils as part of this consultation.

When complete, the Active Travel Delivery Plan will complement the Belfast Cycling Network Delivery Plan and the Strategic Plan for Greenways to provide a firm basis for the future prioritisation, design, and delivery of active travel across the north. The Department also continues to work closely with Councils to better understand your five-year active travel programme and to develop an effective grant and support framework for the effective delivery of greenways and other measures to further promote and encourage active travel.

The Department continues to work closely with Councils to better understand your five-year active travel programme and to develop an effective grant and support framework for the effective delivery of greenways and other measures to promote and encourage active travel.

I hope that you find this report informative. I, along with a representative from our Section Office, Michael Alexander, look forward to meeting the Council.



ALAN KEYS
Divisional Roads Manager

INTRODUCTION

DfI Northern Division Details

Northern Division is one of four Client Divisions within DfI Roads. It spans the local Council areas of Mid & East Antrim, Causeway Coast & Glens and Antrim & Newtownabbey.

TABLE 1: Division Details



The Division is responsible for approximately 5,853km (3,635 miles) of public road and 2,636km of footway, together with 1,364 bridges and 10 park and ride/share sites. We carry out functions under the headings:--

- Strategic Road Improvements & Active Travel – Road Improvement Schemes greater than £1.5 million on the strategic road network and active travel projects
- Network Maintenance – Maintenance of Roads
- Network Development – Street Lighting, Road Improvement Schemes up to £1.5 million and management of road structures
- Network Planning - Development Control, Private Streets and Area Plans

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Divisional Headquarters
County Hall
Castlerock Road
Coleraine
Co Londonderry
BT51 3HS

Telephone: 0300 200 7899

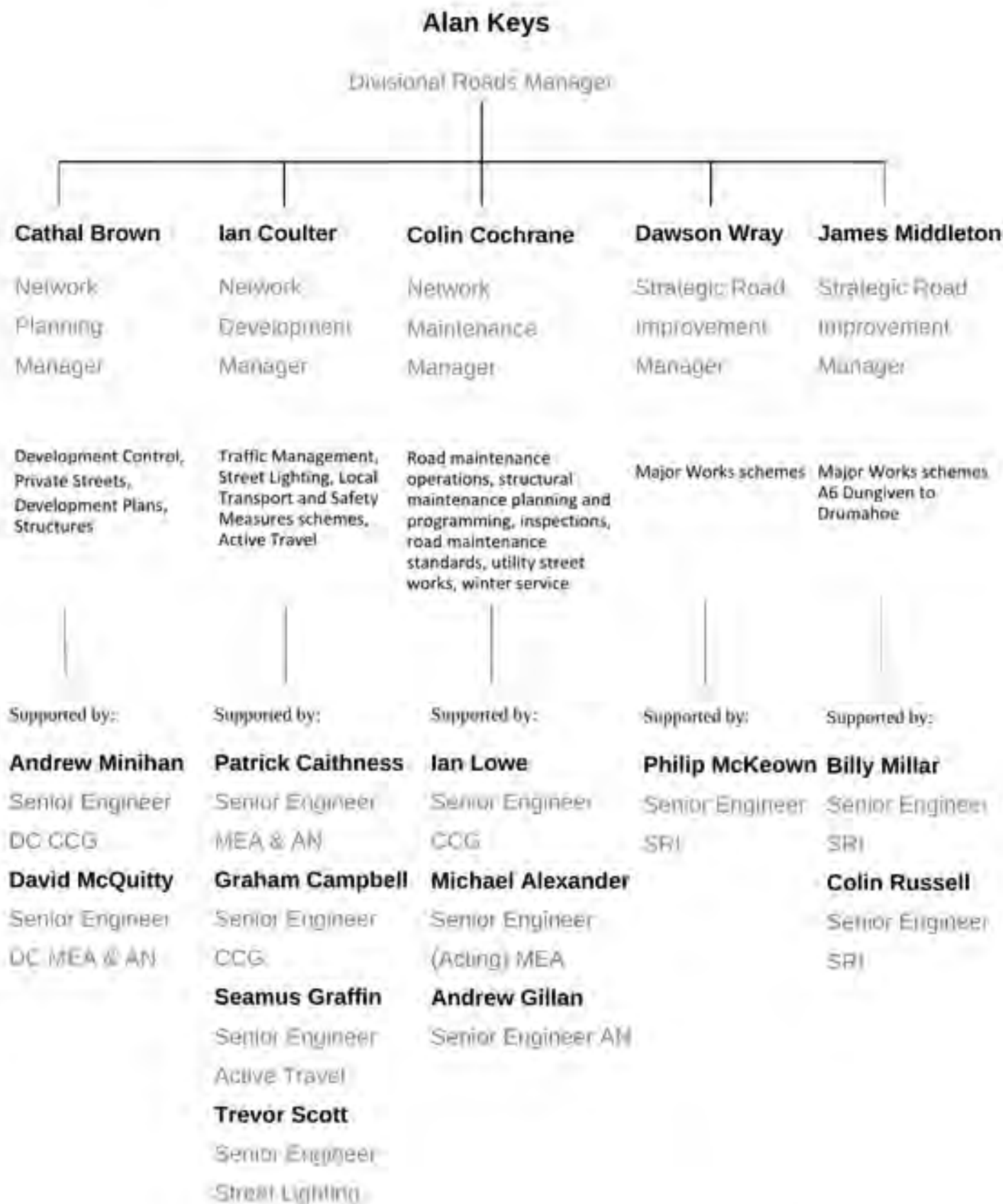
Emergency After Hours: 0300 200 7891

E-mail: dlroads.northern@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/contacts-az/dlroads-northern-division>

INTRODUCTION

DfI Northern Division – Senior Management Team



NETWORK PLANNING

NETWORK PLANNING

Network Planning functions include activities related to Development Control; Private Streets; inputs to Development Plans and Planning Policy issues.

Development Control

DfI Roads in its consideration of planning applications, takes into account aspects of development which could prejudice traffic progression and safety in terms of junction capacity, access arrangements, parking standards and provision, road width, radii, gradients, drainage and sight lines. This consideration usually involves site visits and technical work. Compliance with transport policy and compatibility with road infrastructure is taken into account as well as any need for developer led improvements. Proposals are also checked for potential encroachment upon any future road lines. A detailed Transport Assessment may be required for larger developments where potential traffic impact may extend to road junctions some distance from the development site and where infrastructure improvements are deemed necessary as mitigation. For smaller developments a Transport Assessment Form is required to be completed by the applicant in order to ascertain the likely impact.

In the case of housing developments, the Private Streets (NI) Order 1980 is applied if a planning application includes streets which are to become public and maintainable by the Department. Development Control along with the associated Private Streets Section determines the area to be adopted, arranges for the calculation of the bond amount, supervises construction of the streets and, following satisfactory completion by the developer completes the process for adoption into the public road network. Should the developer not complete the street, DfI Roads can take appropriate enforcement action under the Private Streets Order to ensure satisfactory completion of works funded by the bond.

Other Development Control work includes participating in pre-application discussions and planning meetings, preparation of evidence and presentation of this at Planning Appeals. Assistance is given with enforcement cases associated with breaches of planning control. Input is provided for the use of planning case officers at Council

NETWORK PLANNING

Planning Committee meetings with attendance by Development Control Officers as required.

Private Streets

Private Streets Section inspects and manages the adoption of roads infrastructure in new developments. It also manages enforcement proceedings against developers who fail in their responsibility to provide road bonds before commencement of work on site. This takes the form of a series of warning letters followed if necessary, by enforcement action.

DfI Roads will afford a developer every opportunity to fulfil their responsibilities in completing development infrastructure works to an adoptable standard. Where it becomes evident that a developer is either incapable or unwilling to complete the work, DfI Roads will consider initiating legal proceedings. This may result in the need for DfI Roads to complete the works and recover the costs.

DfI Roads has a finite contracting resource at its disposal and given the variation in annual funding levels, the availability of contracting resource to deliver private street enforcement works cannot be assured. In addition, DfI Roads has no control over the interests of other stakeholders, primarily Northern Ireland Water (NIW), which impact on the delivery of the completion of adoption works.

Local Development Plans

The Department provides advice to the Council on transportation matters for Local Transport Plans and Community Plans as well as work on strategic development planning applications.

The Local Development Plan (LDP) will comprise of two development plan documents.

- The Plan Strategy (PS); and
- The Local Policies Plan (LPP)

As a consultee DfI Roads have a significant input into the process.

NETWORK PLANNING

Planning Consultations

TABLE 2: Planning Consultations

Consultation Details	Northern Division	Mid and East Antrim Council area
Number of consultations	2581	682
Number involving the Private Streets Order	68	22
Number of Pre-Planning Enquiries	1221	634

NETWORK PLANNING

Private Streets - ADOPTIONSCompleted Works 2023 – 2024**TABLE 3: Private Streets – Adoption numbers**

Adoption Details	Northern Division	Mid and East Antrim Council area
Number of adoptions	53	12

TABLE 4: Adoption locations

Adoption locations	Carriageway (m)	Footway (m)	Date of Adoption
Raceview Manor, Broughshane	154		13/04/2023
Donaghy's Lane, Larne	211	125	03/05/2023
Adair Manor, Ballymena	185	169	04/05/2023
Beech Hill, Larne	235		30/05/2023
Quarry Heights, Ahoghill	228		05/06/2023
Killane Manor, Ahoghill	335	40	03/07/2023
Trooperslane Road, Carrickfergus	5	116	05/09/2023
Rocavan Meadow, Broughshane	240		28/11/2023
Park View, Ballymena	185		08/12/2023
Sandhurst Manor, Galgorm	291		05/01/2024
Leafield, Ballycarry	50		30/01/2024
Goldenview Park, Greenisland	150	25	26/03/2024

NETWORK PLANNING

Private Streets - ENFORCEMENTS

Planned Works 2024 – 2025

TABLE 5: Private Streets - Enforcements

Enforcement location

None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Network Development Section includes Local Transport Safety Measures (LTSM) which covers a wide range of network interventions that improve road user and pedestrian safety. It also includes Street Lighting and maintenance of Structures.

LOCAL TRANSPORT AND SAFETY MEASURES

The Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) identified the importance of Local Transport and Safety Measures (LTSM) and highlighted some of the principal initiatives to be addressed, including:

- local improvements in towns across the North to assist pedestrians and cyclists;
- local highway infrastructure measures to improve safety, such as collision remedial schemes and traffic calming schemes; and
- Network Development schemes (minor works).

LTSM expenditure tends to be widely spread and most communities benefit, as an individual scheme is relatively low cost in comparison to the cost of projects on the Strategic Works programme. They are usually very visible measures and provide good value for money in terms of a safer road transport system, which benefits society, the economy, the environment; and actively contributes to everyone's quality of life.

Types of LTSM projects include:

- Minor Works and Micro Schemes
- Traffic Management
- Traffic Calming
- Collision Remedial
- Safer Routes to School
- Bus Priority Measures
- Road and Lane Closures
- Legislation

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

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Structures

DfI maintain over 5,800 bridges and associated highway structures including sign gantries, retaining walls and vehicle restraint systems. All bridges must be capable of carrying 40 tonne vehicles and this requirement has led to an ongoing programme assessment, strengthening and replacement of bridges across the road network.

Street lighting

DfI Roads maintain over 290,000 streetlights. Regular outage repairs are carried out following reports of defects from elected representatives and/or the general public: via our on-line reporting system at www.nidirect.gov.uk or through our new call centre (0300 200 7899). DfI are also working to replace all older streetlights with more energy efficient LED lighting.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Local Transport and Safety Measures

Completed Works 2023 – 2024

TABLE 6: Carriageways/Minor Works completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Curran Road/Main Street, Larne	Upgrade of the existing Curran Road/Main Street/Circular Road and A2 Glenarm Road, Larne signalised crossroads junction. This is due to the poor condition of the existing equipment including signals Controller.	Complete
Agnew Street/Victoria Road, Larne	Upgrade of the existing Agnew Street/Victoria Road/Old Glenarm Road, Larne signalised crossroads junction. This is due to the poor condition of the existing equipment including signals Controller.	Complete

TABLE 7.1: Transportation - Pedestrian Measures completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Island Road, Ballycarry	Provision of a Pedestrian Island and footway link to assist pedestrians crossing the Island Road close to its junction with the Hillhead Road.	Complete
Gilmore Street, Harryville, Ballymena	Upgrading of the existing Pelican Crossing to a new Puffin Crossing.	Complete
Dreen Road, Cullybackey	Provision of a new footway on the Dreen Road, Cullybackey linking the Killyless Road with the existing footway at the Diamond Primary School. The footway will also provide users with a hardstand area to drop off and collect children from school.	Complete

TABLE 7.2: Transportation - Cycling Measures completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 7.3: Transportation - Bus Priority Measures completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

TABLE 7.4: Transportation – Taxis completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

TABLE 7.5 Transportation – Park & Ride completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

TABLE 8: Traffic Calming completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Fairview Park & Knights Avenue, Carrickfergus	A traffic calming scheme in the form of vertical road humps to control speed of traffic.	Complete
Glenkeen Drive, Greenisland	A traffic calming scheme in the form of vertical road humps to control the speed of traffic.	Complete

TABLE 9: Collision Remedial completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

TABLE 10.1: Car Parking completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

TABLE 10.2: Residents Parking completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 11: Safer Routes to School – Part time 20mph limits completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

TABLE 12: Road Signs, Markings, and Bollards completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
M2 Ballymena Bypass and associated roads	Removal of all Brown Tourist signage relating to the ECOS facility. Tourism NI have confirmed the ECOS building is no longer a tourist facility.	Complete
Ballymena Town Centre, various roads	Removal of the Variable Message Signage within Ballymena Town Centre relating to council owned or private car parks.	Complete
Milebush Park, Carrickfergus	Installation of Centreline and Give way markings	Complete
Taylor's Avenue, Carrickfergus	Installation of 15m corner restrictions	Complete
The Bia Hole, Whitehead	Installation of 2no slow road markings	Complete
Brooklands Park, Whitehead	Installation of Centreline and Junction markings	Complete
Red Brae Road Carrickfergus	Installation of 3no SLOW road markings	Complete

TABLE 13.1: Legislation – Speed Limits completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

TABLE 13.2: Legislation – Waiting Restrictions completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Prince Andrew Way, Carrickfergus	No waiting at anytime	Complete

TABLE 13.3: Legislation – Weight Restrictions completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 13.4: Legislation - Traffic Orders (Road & Lane Closures) completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

TABLE 13.5: Legislation - Disabled Parking Bays completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Killyglen Road Larne	Accessible parking bay	Complete
Toberwine Street Glenarm	Accessible parking bay	Complete
The Roddens Larne	Accessible parking bay	Complete
Moyard Gardens, Greenisland	Accessible parking bay	Complete
Davy Street Carrickfergus	Accessible parking bay	Complete

TABLE 14: Accessible Parking [Dropped kerbs/mobility ramps] completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.	

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Planned Works 2024 – 2025**TABLE 15: Carriageways/Minor Works planned**

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Killyless	A junction improvement scheme is proposed to improve traffic movements and remove the perception of a continuation of the road at this junction.	Design
Crossroads, Portglenone	Following consideration of a few options, the proposed scheme will involve the realignment of a section of the Hiltonstown Road creating a staggered junction and the provision of visibility splays in all directions.	Ongoing
Larne Park and Ride, Larne	A scheme is being progressed to provide a park and ride facility on a site adjacent to Shanes Hill and Belfast Road Larne. Subject to finance and planning approval the scheme will see the construction of 264 parking spaces, which will ensure there is a safe off-road bus stop facility with designated parking provision for this area.	Design Ongoing

TABLE 16.1: Transportation - Pedestrian Measures planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Main Bentra Road, Ballycarry	Provision of a new footway link for pedestrians accessing Ballycarry village.	Complete

TABLE 16.2: Transportation - Cycling Measures planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025	

TABLE 16.3: Transportation - Bus Priority Measures planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025	

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 16.4: Transportation – Taxis planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025	

TABLE 16.5 Transportation – Park & Ride planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025	

TABLE 17: Traffic Calming planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025	

TABLE 18: Collision Remedial planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025	

TABLE 19.1: Car Parking planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025	

TABLE 19.2: Residents Parking planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025	

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 20: Safer Routes to School – Part time 20mph limits planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025	

TABLE 21: Road Signs, Markings, and Bollards planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
The Grange, Ballymena	Upgrade of 30mph and 40mph to grey backing boards – 30mph and 40 mph roundals and road marking installed	Complete
Scottstown Road, Ballymena	Upgrade of 30mph signage	Complete
Moorefields Road, Ballymena	Installation of Cattle signage	Complete
A8 Jct with Pound Street, Larne	Upgrade of chevron signage, installation of Give ways and Stop Signs on yellow backing boards. Refreshed all hatching and road markings.	Complete
Dunluce Street, Larne	Relocation of No-entry signage	Complete
Upper Carneal Road, Larne	Installation of chevron signage	Complete
Mullaghsandall Road, Larne	Upgrade chevron signage	Complete
Quay Street, Larne	Installation of directional signage	Complete
Drumahoe Road, Larne	Refresh of Junction markings	Complete
A2 Coast Road, Glenarm	Installation of double bend signs on yellow backing boards	Complete

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 22.1: Legislation – Speed Limits planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Old Glenarm Road, Larne	Speed reduction from 40mph to 30mph	In progress
Ballykennedy Road Ahoghill, Ballymena	Speed reduction from 60mph to 40mph	In progress

TABLE 22.2: Legislation – Waiting Restrictions planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Ballymoney Road, Ballymena	Limited Waiting Bay	In progress
Caircastle Road, Ballygally	Limited Waiting Bay	In progress
Waterfall Road, Carnlough	No waiting at any time restrictions	Complete
Beach Road, Whitehead	No waiting at any time restrictions	In progress

TABLE 22.3: Legislation – Weight Restrictions planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025.	

TABLE 22.4: Legislation - Traffic Orders (Road & Lane Closures) planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025.	

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 22.5: Legislation - Disabled Parking Bays planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Cairngorm Walk, Larne	Accessible Parking Bay	In Progress
Newington Avenue, Larne	Accessible Parking Bay	In Progress
Glynnview Avenue, Larne	Accessible Parking Bay	In Progress
Ballystrudder Gardens, Islandmagee	Accessible Parking Bay	In Progress
Drumnahe Manor, Larne	Accessible Parking Bay	In Progress
Main Park, Ballymena	Accessible Parking Bay	In Progress
32 Glenarm Road, Larne	Revocation of Accessible Parking Bay	In Progress
44 Glenarm Road, Larne	Revocation of Accessible Parking Bay	In Progress
12 Nelson Street, Carrickfergus	Accessible Parking Bay	In Progress
7 Durluskin Crescent, Carrickfergus	Accessible Parking Bay	In Progress

TABLE 23: Accessible Parking [Dropped kerbs/mobility ramps] planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Durluskin Drive, Carrickfergus	Dropped kerbs and tactile paving	Complete
Ellis Street, Carrickfergus	Dropped kerbs and tactile paving	Complete
A2 Glynn	Dropped kerbs	In Progress

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Street LightingCompleted Works 2023 – 2024**TABLE 24: Street Lighting - completed**

Location	Number of Lights
Galgorm Road, Ballymena	95
The Croft, Carnlough	20
Seacourt Estate Phase 2, Larne	65
Market Road, Ballymena	12
Knockagh Heights, Carrick	6
Circular Road, Larne	48
Fenaghy Road, Ballymena	12
Old Mill Heights, Larne	20
Led Retrofit throughout the council area	2500

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Planned Works 2024 – 2025**TABLE 25: Street Lighting - planned**

Location	Number of Lights
Donegal Close/Crescent, Whitehead	25
Ballymoney Road, Ballymena	50
Springwell St/Albert Place, Ballymena	30
Meadowvale, Ballymena	24
Coast Road, Glenarm	13
Larne Road, Carrick	25
Dromore Road, Carrick	20
Belfast Road, Carrick	48
Led Retrofit throughout the council area	1000

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Structures

Completed Works 2023 – 2024

TABLE 26: Structures - completed

Location	Scheme Description
Irish Hill Bridge, Tullygarley Road, Ballymena	Remove vegetation and re-point. Repair cracks on arch barrel and arch ring.
McCartney's Bridge Slaght Road, Ballymena	Remove vegetation, repair cracks on deck soffit and spandrel walls.
Ballycarry Bridge, Island Road, Ballycarry	Remove vegetation, re-point and repair damaged parapet.
Old Railway Bridge, Randalstown.	Clear vegetation and repair parapets.
Carnduff Bridge, Bank Road, Larne	Remove vegetation and re-point structure.
Ballyminstra Bridge, Glebe Road, Ahoghill	Install new aprons and invert.
Gracehill Bridge, Galgorm Road, Ballymena	Checking and cleaning half joints
Kennel Bridge, Kennelbridge Road, Ballymena	Remove vegetation and re-point. Repair wingwalls and concrete verges.
Dungallon Bridge, Garron Road, Carnlough.	Remove vegetation and repair damaged parapets.
Topping Bridge, Old Belfast Road, Larne	Repair damaged section of parapet.
Island Road, Ballycarry near junction with Main Street	Upgrade vehicle restraint system to meet current standards.
Springmount Road, Clough	Remove sub-standard vehicle restraint system and install parapets.
A26, Frosses Road, Ashgrove Furniture entrance	Upgrade vehicle restraint system to meet current standards.
Glenravel Road, Cargan	Upgrade vehicle restraint system to meet current standards.
Millbay Road, Islandmagee	Upgrade vehicle restraint system to meet current standards.
A26, Frosses Road, Ballymena side of Glarryford junction.	Upgrade vehicle restraint system to meet current standards.
New Line/Councillors Road, Carrickfergus	Concrete base with redi-rock blocks installation to protect the verge, upgrade vehicle restraint system to meet current standards.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Planned Works 2024 – 2025

TABLE 27: Structures - planned

Location	Scheme Description
Ballyminstra Bridge, Glebe Rd	Repair scoured invert, repointing, and staining on deck.
Liminary Bridge, Liminary Rd	Missing masonry- repair damaged apron and invert.
Glarryford Bridge, Kildowney Rd	Repoint and repair cracking/corrosion on parapet and handrail. Remove vegetation around parapet, spandrel wall and wing wall. Re-point of primary deck, water leakage and staining treatment.
Flyover- Harbour Highway, Larne	Repair cracks on wing walls, bulging and deformation also present. Repair cracking on abutment, parapet, pier, and primary deck. Potholes to be filled. Repair cracking at parapet beam, pier, and primary deck. Remove vegetation from parapet beam and wing walls. Corrosion at handrail, parapet beam, pier, and primary deck. Missing material at expansion joints. Superstructure drainage- Loss of function Spalling at primary deck and wing walls. Drainage staining at wing walls, deck, pier and parapet beam.
Craigdunloof Bridge, Ballymena	Water leakage at wing walls and pier.
Knockanully Bridge, Martinstown	Repair damaged parapets Repair damaged parapet

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Network Traffic Telematics

Completed Works 2023 – 2024

TABLE 28: Telematics - completed

Scheme Description	Scheme Status
Upgrade of communication lines of 3No. PSTN BT lines to Sim cards for traffic signals monitoring in the Mid and East Antrim Area	Complete

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Planned Works 2024 – 2025**TABLE 29: Telematics - planned**

Scheme Description	Scheme Status
LED upgrade of Halogen traffic signals heads across Mid and East Antrim Council Area	Programmed
Upgrade traffic signals from Low Voltage to Extra Low Voltage at Signalised roundabout on Shore Road at Shorelands	Complete
Upgrade of communication lines from PSTN BT lines to Sim cards for traffic signals monitoring in the Mid and East Antrim Area	In Progress

NETWORK MAINTENANCE

NETWORK MAINTENANCE

Network Maintenance operations include resurfacing, strengthening and surface dressing of roads, drainage works, gully emptying, grass cutting, winter service and dealing with correspondence on maintenance issues such as potholes.

Resurfacing and Strengthening

Roads generally fail by cracking and rutting. They usually do not fail suddenly, but gradually deteriorate due to the impact of traffic, age and weathering. Wear normally appears as either excessive permanent deformation of the whole or part of the carriageway structure or is associated with the cracking of the bituminous layers.

Roads are normally designed for an operational life of 20 years. During this period and beyond, there is a need for the highway authority to intervene at times to either treat or replace the top layer of bituminous material known as the "surface course" or to provide additional depth to preserve the underlying structure of the road and extend its life.

Resurfacing is the application of a layer of this mixed material of 40mm minimum thickness. It strengthens the road, seals it against the ingress of water, and improves skidding resistance and riding quality.

Surface course Bitumen Macadam (Bitmac) has an expected life of 7-12 years which can be extended by subsequent surface dressing. Bitmac is a more flexible material than Asphalt and more suitable for the deformation and movement associated with weaker underlying ground conditions.

Asphalt resurfacing is more appropriate to heavily trafficked roads and junctions having a robust road base. It is more expensive and has a longer expected life of 15-20 years. Resurfacing of existing roads can usually be carried out on top of the existing surface (overlay) but where drainage or kerb levels or bridge heights are restricted the surface may need to be removed before resurfacing takes place.

Surface Dressing

This process involves spraying a bitumen emulsion binder onto the existing road surface, followed by a layer of stone chippings, which is then rolled. This seals the

NETWORK MAINTENANCE

road preventing ingress of water thus extending the life expectancy of the road and also helps to improve the skid resistance of the surface.

Drainage Works

The quick and effective drainage of surface water from the carriageway contributes significantly to road safety and helps to prevent damage to the road itself.

Improvement works carried out include the upgrading of the existing drainage facilities to ensure effective dispersal of surface water and prevent as far as possible the occurrence of standing water or flooding of the road. In many cases the provision of new drainage facilities have to be undertaken

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting is carried out for road safety reasons rather than for amenity purposes. Previous grass cutting policy allowed for routine cutting of 1 swathe width (approximately 1.2m) twice a year in rural areas and five times a year in urban areas. However, due to financial constraints, the policy has been amended to allow for two cuts across both rural and urban areas, with the exception of sightlines which are re-cut as necessary.

Gully Emptying

The Department currently aims to maintain the level of service and inspect and clean, where necessary, all gullies once annually. Open outlets are also cleaned once per year.

Dealing with Correspondence / Public Interface

The Department, and in particular DfI Roads, receives a large volume of correspondence from the public and public representatives throughout the year. The level of correspondence has been increasing in recent years at a time when staff resources have been reducing.

In a large number of cases the correspondence relates to reports of individual defects on the road network, such as potholes, blocked gullies, defective street lights etc. In order to improve efficiency the Department now deals with correspondence which is only reporting routine defects differently from other general correspondence. Therefore, if a member of the public, or public representative, writes to the

NETWORK MAINTENANCE

Department by letter or e-mail, reporting a routine defect then our staff will simply log this information onto our work systems and an automated response detailing the query reference number will issue to the correspondent. Staff will then deal with the query received in accordance with our maintenance standards.

If the initial letter relates to a more general roads issue rather than simply reporting a defect, a substantive reply will issue in the normal way.

In an effort to reduce the volume of correspondence reporting routine defects, we are encouraging the reporting of defects through the on-line "Report a Fault" section on our website. Alternatively, a phone call can be made to one of our telephone operatives who will record the details directly onto the "Report a Fault" system. You can report a fault on-line at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/> or by telephone to 02890 540540.

It is noted that the vast majority of dealings with the public are by phone or email and the number of visitors to our offices has reduced considerably as communication methods have improved. However, Section Offices will remain open to the public from 10am - 12noon with meetings outside of this able to be arranged by appointment also.

Emergency Out of Office Hours Assistance

We have a call centre to deal with calls outside normal office hours. DfI Roads personnel can be called upon to deal with emergencies such as flooding, obstructions such as fallen trees, and when requested by Emergency Services, in clearing up after road traffic collisions. Routine roads related matters are not dealt with by this service and should be raised with DfI Roads offices during normal working hours. The Emergency out of Hours telephone number is: 0300 200 7899.

Winter Service

The Department carries out precautionary salting of carriageways on identified priority roads to prevent ice from forming. Every night from the middle of October until the middle of April around 300 staff and over 130 gritters are on standby to ensure the main roads are salted. The aim is to provide a winter service which, as far as is possible, will permit main road traffic to move safely and freely in wintry conditions.

NETWORK MAINTENANCE

The winter service operation involves salting around 7,000 kilometres of main roads in just over three hours, at a cost of approximately £85,000 per night.

During snow, all gritters will be fitted with snow ploughs and efforts directed to clearing snow from main roads. Arrangements are also in place to enlist the help of contractors, including farmers, to clear blocked roads. Approximately 5,600 salt bins and 58,000 grit piles are placed at strategic locations for use on a self-help basis. At the end of last season, the Department had arrangements in place with all 11 councils for the treatment of town and city centre footways during prolonged severe weather. Where necessary, officials are consulting with councils to roll forward these agreements.

Around 65,000 tonnes of salt is used in an average winter.

The Winter Service average normal budget requirement is £7m, but has, in the past, been £10m for a bad winter as was the case in 2017-18.

Additional information, including our winter service leaflet, can be found on our [website](#).

<http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/infrastructure/articles/dfi-roads-emergency-response-and-winter-service>

NETWORK MAINTENANCE

Winter Service

TABLE 30: Winter Service - dates of operations

Description	Start date	Completion date
Official winter maintenance period 2023-2024	26 th September	30 th April
Salting Operations in this period	17 th October	3 rd April

TABLE 31: Winter Service - details of operations

Description	Details
Depot locations in Mid and East Antrim	Ballykeel Depot, Ballymena & Kilwaughter Depot, Larne
Number of gritters used during 1 gritting action	5 = Ballykeel Depot & 4 = Kilwaughter Depot, Larne (Total 9)
Number of personnel involved in gritting operation in Northern Division	138
Length of roads salted in Mid and East Antrim	601km (Includes St Patricks Link, Ballymena = 2.2km)
Total volume of salt used during 2023-2024 winter season	15,396 tonnes = Northern Division 5,385 tonnes = Mid & East Antrim

NETWORK MAINTENANCE

Street Works

TABLE 32: Street Works by Utility companies

Number of Notifications in Northern Division	Number of Notifications in Mid and East Antrim Council	Number of Notifications in Mid and East Antrim Council subject to inspection	Percentage of those inspected that were unsatisfactory
16346	5362	2993	5%

NETWORK MAINTENANCE - STRUCTURAL

Maintenance Operations – Structural**Structural Maintenance - Surfacing**Completed Works 2023 – 2024**TABLE 33: RESURFACING – Trunk Road Network completed**

Total length completed	Total cost
0 Km	£0

TABLE 34: RESURFACING – Trunk Road Network locations

Road Number	Road Name
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.

TABLE 35: RESURFACING – Remaining Road Network completed

Total length completed	Total cost
20.75 Km	£5,252,000

TABLE 36: RESURFACING – Remaining Road Network locations

Road Number	Road Name
A2	Circular Rd Roundabout & Narrow Gauge Road, Larne
A26	Larne Road Roundabout, Ballymena
A42	Portglenone Road & The Diamond, Ahoghill
B18	Whitesides Road, Ballymena
B90	Upper Road, Carrickfergus B0093
B93	Glebe Road, Ahoghill
B96	Townhill Road
B96	Hiltonstown Road, Cullybackey
B99	Rectory Road, Larne
B148	Drumahoe Road, Larne
C56	Fenaghy Road, Ballymena
C67	Hazelbank Road, Broughshane
C74	Carrickfergus Road, Larne
U2026	Carnburn Road, Ballymena
U2083	Tullynamullan Road, Ballymena

NETWORK MAINTENANCE - STRUCTURAL

U2097	Craigadoo Road, Ballymena
U2099	Deerfin Road, Ballymena
U2125	Loughloughan Road, Ballymena
U2126	Longmore Road, Broughshane
U2143	Circular Rd, Ballymena
U2201	North Street, Ballymena
U2204	Ballymoney Road, Ballymena
U2205	Rowallane Drive, Ballymena
U2270	Bannview Terrace, Portglenone
U3111	Craigowen Road, Carrickfergus
U3111	Rathmoyle Park, Carrickfergus
U3111	Rathmoyle Park West, Carrickfergus
U4015	Drumcrow Road, Larne
U4020	Brustin Brae Road, Larne
U4024	Ballycraigy Road, Larne
U4028	Ballyhampton Road, Larne
U4060	Newlands Road, Larne
U4086	Portland Road, Larne
U4086	Curran Road, Larne
U4087	Glynn Road, Larne
U4090	Kent Avenue, Larne

TABLE 37: SURFACE DRESSING completed

Total length completed	Total cost
56.27 Km	£847,000

TABLE 38: SURFACE DRESSING locations

Road Number	Road Name
B90	Ballylumford Road, Islandmagee
B96	Ballyconnelly Road, Islandmagee
B97	Munie Road, Glemarm
B150	Port Muck Road, Islandmagee
C56	Ballyconnelly Road, Ballymena

NETWORK MAINTENANCE - STRUCTURAL

C57	Bridge Road, Ballymena
C59	Loan Road, Ballymena
C64	Caherty Road, Ballymena
C66	Aghanure Road, Ballymena
C70	Starbog Road, Larne
U2016	Carclinty Road, Ballymena
U2038	Garvaghy Road, Ballymena
U2107	Shillinavogy Road, Ballymena
U2108	Carnstroam Road, Ballymena
U2119	Kilnacolpagh Road, Ballymena
U2129	Pollee Road, Ballymena
U3011	Quay Lane, Carrickfergus
U4007	Straidkilly Road, Larne
U4016	Glenview Road, Larne
U4016	Mullaghsandall Road, Larne
U4030	Drumadonaghy Road, Larne
U4031	Castlehill Road, Larne
U4032	Harveys Road, Larne
U4069	Port Rd, Islandmagee

TABLE 39: SURFACE DRESSING (micro surfacing) completed

Total length completed	Total cost
0 Km	£0

TABLE 40: SURFACE DRESSING (micro surfacing) locations

Road Number	Road Name
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2023-2024.

NETWORK MAINTENANCE - STRUCTURAL

Structural Maintenance – Footway ResurfacingCompleted Works 2023 – 2024**TABLE 41: Footway Resurfacing completed**

Total length completed	Total cost
6.23 Km	£390,000

TABLE 42: Footway Resurfacing

Road Number	Road Name
U3111	Craigowen Road, Carrickfergus
U3111	Rathmoyle Park West, Carrickfergus
U3111	Rathmoyle Park, Carrickfergus
F4090	Seacourt Estate, Larne
U4086	Portland Road, Larne

Structural Maintenance – DrainageCompleted Works 2023 – 2024**TABLE 43: DRAINAGE completed**

Total length completed	Total cost
2.9 Km	£402,000

TABLE 44: DRAINAGE completed locations

Road Number	Road Name
A2	Larne Road, Carrickfergus
A2	Coast Road, Glenarm
A523	Queen Street, Ballymena
A43	Martinstown Road, Ballymena
B18	Whitesides Road, Ballymena
B90	170 Upper Road, Carrickfergus
B90	Middle Road, Carrickfergus
B90	Dalways Bawn Road, Carrickfergus
B93	Dunminning Road, Ballymena
B94	Knockan Road, Ballymena

NETWORK MAINTENANCE - STRUCTURAL

B96	Hiltonstown Road, Ballymena
B150	Ford Cottages, Whitehead
C45	Steeple Road, Ballymena
C57	Shellinghill Road, Ballymena
C58	Dunecoin Road, Ballymena
C62	Cloughwater Road, Ballymena
C66	Glenview Road, Larne
C66	Carnalbanagh Road, Larne
C67	Buckna Road, Ballymena
C68	Tullymore Road, Broughshane
C70	Starbog Road, Larne
C75	Carneal Road, Larne
C109	Frys Road, Ballymena
F2212	30 Drumtara, Ballymena
U2024	Dunnygarron Road, Ballymena
U2031	Old Galgorm Road, Ballymena
U2038	77a Garvaghy Road, Ballymena
U2077	Ballee Road West, Ballymena
U2105	Ballynashee Road, Ballymena
U2126	Longmore Rd, Ballymena
U2138	Rockstown Road, Ballymena
U2160	Skerry Road East, Ballymena
U2204	Springwell Street, Ballymena
U2212	88 Drumtara, Ballymena
U2215	Grange Road, Ballymena
U2215	Tullymore Park, Ballymena
U2217	Sheepshill, Ballymena
U2225	Wakehurst Road, Ballymena
U2250	Fairfields, Gracehill
U2297	Craigadoo Road, Ballymena
U2250	Royal Court, Gracehill
U4009	Dickeystown Road, Glenarm

NETWORK MAINTENANCE - STRUCTURAL

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U4016	Mullaghsandall road, Larne
U4017	Aughaboy Road, Larne
U4032	Harveys Road, Larne
U4034	Park Road, Larne
U4063	Ballylig Road, Larne

NETWORK MAINTENANCE - STRUCTURAL

Structural Maintenance - SurfacingPlanned Works 2024 – 2025**TABLE 45: RESURFACING – Trunk Road Network planned**

Total length proposed	Total estimated cost
1.9 Km	£1,000,000

TABLE 46: RESURFACING – Trunk Road Network locations

Road Number	Road Name
M2	Ballymena By-Pass

TABLE 47: RESURFACING – Remaining Road Network planned

Total length proposed	Total estimated cost
5.22 Km	£1,700,000

TABLE 48: RESURFACING – Remaining Road Network locations

Road Number	Road Name
B93	Dunminning Road, Ballymena
B96	Hiltonstown Rad, Ballymena
B99	Waterfall Road, Larne
U2029	Woodtown Road, Ballymena
U2035	Killane Road, Ballymena
U2066	Drumrammer Road, Ballymena
U2072	Ballykennedy Road, Ballymena
U2204	Beaumont Hill, Ballymena
U2211/U2225	Henry Street / Gilmore St, Ballymena
U2230	Old Park Road, Ballymena
U4101	Linn Road, Larne
U4104	Lower Cairncastle Road, Larne

TABLE 49: SURFACE DRESSING planned

Total length proposed	Total estimated cost
60.95 Km	£900,000

NETWORK MAINTENANCE - STRUCTURAL

TABLE 50: SURFACE DRESSING locations

Road Number	Road Name
B64	Skerry Road East, Cargin
B148	Ballymullock Road, Larne
C35	Slievetrue Road, Carrickfergus
C35	Paisley Road, Carrickfergus
C38	Braepark Road, Larne
C66	Carnalbanagh Road, Broughshane
C67	Hazelbank Road, Broughshane
U2116	Carnalbanagh Road, Broughshane
U2127	Ballylig Road, Broughshane
U2157	Gortnageeragh Road, Cargin
U2160	Skerry Road East, Cargin
U2161	Tuftarney Road, Cargin
U2166	Lisnamanny Road, Martinstown
U2167	Skerry Road West, Martinstown
U3001	Monument Road, Carrickfergus
U3002	Knockagh Road, Carrickfergus
U3005	Caim Road, Carrickfergus
U3006	Dairylands Road, Carrickfergus
U4031	Deerpark Road, Larne
U4033	Deerpark Road, Larne
U4037	Sawmill Road, Larne
U4038	Ballyalbanagh Road, Larne

TABLE 51: SURFACE DRESSING (micro surfacing) planned

Total length proposed	Total estimated cost
0 Km	£0

TABLE 52: SURFACE DRESSING (micro surfacing) locations

Road Number	Road Name
	None programmed for the Mid and East Antrim Council Area in 2024-2025.

NETWORK MAINTENANCE - STRUCTURAL

Structural Maintenance – Footway ResurfacingPlanned Works 2024 – 2025**TABLE 53: Footway Resurfacing planned**

Total length proposed	Total estimated cost
5.38 Km	£350,000

TABLE 54: Footway Resurfacing locations

Road Number	Road Name
U2203	Sunningdale Park, Ballymena
F3107	Glenfield Walk, Carrickfergus
U3141	Donegall Estate, Whitehead
F4120	Croft Estate, Carnlough

Structural Maintenance – DrainagePlanned Works 2024 – 2025**TABLE 55: DRAINAGE planned**

Total length proposed	Total estimated cost
1 Km	£200,000

TABLE 56: DRAINAGE planned locations

Road Number	Road Name
A26	Lisnevenagh Road, Ballymena
A36	Shsneshill Road, Larne
C35	Paisley Road, Carrickfergus
C60	Doury Road, Ballymena
C65	Rocavan Road, Ballymena
C66	Lisnamurrigan Road, Ballymena
C71	Ballycoose Road, Larne
C78	Gobbins Road, Larne
U2027	Sand Road , Ballymena
U2040	Garvaghy Road, Ballymena
U2115	Carnalbanagh Road, Ballymena

NETWORK MAINTENANCE - STRUCTURAL

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U2132	Knockboy Road, Ballymena	
U2203	Carnburn Park, Ballymena	
U2207	Hugomont Park, Ballymena	
U3002	Knockagh Road, Carrickfergus	
U4020	Brustin Brae Road, Larne	
U4032	Harveys Road, Larne	
U4044	Ballyvaddy Road, Larne	

STRATEGIC ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

STRATEGIC ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

[Major road improvements - inception to construction RSPPG E030v5 | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Scheme Name 1 – SRI planned locations

TABLE 57: SRI planned locations

District Council area(s)	None programmed for Mid and East Antrim Council area in 2024 – 2025.
Location	
Scheme description	
Scheme length	
Scheme estimated cost	
Scheme website	
Any related schemes?	
Current stage	
Current position	

ACTIVE TRAVEL

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Completed Works 2023 – 2024**TABLE 58.1: Cycling Measures completed**

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Lame Road	265m of shared footway /cycleway, from Braidwater Link	Complete
Fisherwick, Ballymena	98m of shared footway /cycleway, from Fisherwick to St Patricks Barracks,	Complete

TABLE 58.2: Pedestrian Measures completed

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
	None completed for Mid & East Antrim Council area in 2023-2024.	

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Planned Works 2024 – 2025**TABLE 59.1: Cycling Measures planned**

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Grove Rd/ Carnburn Rd, Ballymena	1450m of shared footway /cycleway, from Doury Rd to Carniny Rd.	
Fenaghy Rd, Galgorm	100m of shared footway /cycleway, from entrance of Galgorm Estate to the Gatehouse. This will form part of the Cullybackey to Galgorm greenway.	
Gortgole Road, Portglénone	Subject to land acquisition a shared footway /cycleway is proposed along the Gortgole Road from the entrance of the play park to the junction of Lovers Lane.	
Raceview Road, M2 Bypass Junction	Subject to land acquisition it is proposed to provide a footway and cycleway adjacent to the existing carriageway. This will provide a segregated cycle path and footway from the Woodside Road to the Ecos roundabout and join to the existing footway/cycleway network. As part of this scheme, it is proposed that the junction with the M2 slip road will be signalised and also provide a new controlled crossing at the Ecos roundabout. At present traffic modelling is taking place for the Ecos roundabout and motorway off / on slips.	

ACTIVE TRAVEL

TABLE 59.2: Pedestrian Measures planned

Road Name	Scheme Description	Status
Manse Road, Ballycarry	Subject to land acquisition the scheme will provide a 50m infill section of footway along the frontage of house number 31 Manse Road. The new proposed section will provide a continuous walking facility along the Manse Road between West Street and the Dunteagh housing development.	
Townhill Road /	Subject to land acquisition this scheme will provide a 44m footway extension on the verge from the existing provision at	
Lover's Lane, Portglenone	Bracken View to Lovers Lane. This scheme will also improve the sight visibility for vehicles exiting Lover's Lane. (Ongoing discussion between the landowner and NIE).	



Council/Committee:	Neighbourhood and Communities Committee
Date:	22 October 2024
Report Title:	Proposed Blue Plaque to John Clifford
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Laura Cowan, Strategic Tourism and Regeneration Manager
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandie, Acting Director of Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval to place an Ulster History Circle blue plaque at Larne Museum and Arts Centre in honour of John Clifford.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Ulster History Circle is responsible for blue plaques across Northern Ireland. In recent years there have been four plaques placed within the Borough, at Carnlough, Gleno and Larne (2). The plaques are erected through adherence to strict criteria on the significance of the individual concerned. Those so honoured have passed away at least 20 years before they are considered.
- 2.2. This proposal for placement of a blue plaque is intended to honour Larne born poet, and inaugural curator of Larne Museum, John Clifford.
- 2.3. John Clifford, 1900 - 1983, was one of the most prominent folklorists of his day in Larne and East Antrim. Born in Enniskillen, he came to County Antrim at the age of eight and went to school in Larne. John worked on a number of local farms and developed an abiding love of rural life and folklore - although his later career took him to London where he remained for thirty years.
- 2.4. Following his retirement, John returned to Larne where he was appointed Librarian of Carnegie Library from 1968-1974. He served on the committee of Larne Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, helped to revive the Mounthill Fair, co-founded and curated the Larne and District Historical Centre, and was a founding member of Larne and District Folklore Society.
- 2.5. An actor, playwright, poet, and folk musician, John Clifford was the inaugural curator of Larne Museum. The temporary exhibition gallery in Larne Museum and Arts Centre is called the 'John Clifford Gallery'



3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. The Ulster History Circle has agreed to erect a memorial to John Clifford and has approached Council with respect to this being placed alongside existing blue plaques at Larne Museum and Arts Centre. The current plaques were approved by Elected Members in 2019 to honour Professor R. J. Gregg, and in 2023 to honour Dr. James McHenry.
- 3.2. The Ulster Scots Agency has agreed to fund this plaque but has specified that it wishes to have the plaque installed and unveiled as part of the wider Ulster Scots Leid Week events, in November 2024. The blue plaque to Dr. James McHenry was also unveiled as part of Ulster Scots Leid Week events, in November 2023.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. Financial implications – costs for fabrication and installation of this blue plaque, honouring John Clifford, will be met by the Ulster Scots Agency, and therefore there are no cost implications for Council.
- 4.2. Honouring key artists from the Borough aligns with The Executive Office's 'Together: Building a United Community Strategy theme of Our Cultural Expression' strategy, which seeks 'to create a community, which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.'
- 4.3. This proposal links to the new Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028 themes and objectives. Under the pillar of Place:

Help drive sustainable economic growth by promoting the Borough as a leading visitor and cultural destination, utilising our natural, and built, heritage and assets.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1. It is proposed that Officers continue to liaise with Ulster History Circle and the Ulster Scots Agency on the installation of the blue plaque honoring John Clifford.
- 5.2. Ulster Scots Leid Week 2024 is scheduled for 25 - 29 November 2024.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1. Elected Members are asked to approve the installation at Larne Museum and Arts Centre of an Ulster History Circle blue plaque, funded by the Ulster Scots Agency, to honour John Clifford.



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

7. Appendices / Links

Ulster History Circle: <https://ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk/>

Council/Committee:	Neighbourhood and Communities Committee
Date:	22 October 2024
Report Title:	Christmas Programming – Tourism, Arts and Culture
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Laura Cowan, Strategic Tourism and Regeneration Manager
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandie, Acting Director of Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the programme of events scheduled across Tourism, Arts and Culture venues for Christmas 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1. Officers from Tourism, Arts and Culture have programmed a range of commercial and community events for Autumn 2024, including Christmas-themed events to take place at the Braid, Carrickfergus Museum, Larne Museum and Arts Centre, Arthur Cottage, and Andrew Jackson Cottage.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. A copy of all Arts and Culture events programmed for Autumn 2024 is detailed in Appendix 1.
- 3.2. The following events are currently programmed/confirmed for the Christmas programme:

Event	Venue	Date(s)	Details
Christmas letter art workshops, school choir performances, story time with Mrs Claus, lunchtime and afternoon Christmas music recitals, Christmas movie screenings	The Braid Larne Market Yard Carrickfergus Civic Centre Carrickfergus Town Hall	Running throughout December	Christmas-themed activities for young children and for older people.



Event	Venue	Date(s)	Details
Wreath Making	Andrew Jackson Cottage	16 November 2024	The cottages annual festive Wreath Making returns by popular demand - festive refreshments while visitors make a wreath to hang with pride as they celebrate the festive season.
	Arthur Cottage	23 November 2024	
Snow White and the Seven Christmas Elves – Pantomime	The Braid Theatre	05 December 2024 – 07 December 2024	Produced by local theatre company 'Alternative Medicine Theatre.'
Christmas Storytime	Larne Museum and Arts Centre	07 December 2024	Christmas-themed storytelling workshop for young children.
Fairytale of New York	The Braid Theatre	13 December 2024 – 14 December 2024	Christmas song and dance show produced by Loughgiel School of Irish Dance.
A Christmas Celebration	The Braid Atrium	17 December 2024	Ballymena Chamber Orchestra presents two performances of Christmas classics, performed under the Christmas twinkling lights in the Braid.



**Mid & East
Antrim**
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3.3. The Mid and East Antrim annual Christmas Lights Switch-On events will take place at the following times:

3.3.1. Ballymena – Saturday 16 November 2024, 12pm – 7pm;

3.3.2. Larne – Friday 22 November, 5.30pm – 8.30pm;

3.3.3. Carrickfergus – Saturday 23 November, 1pm – 6pm.

3.4. Christmas community Church Services, supported by Council, will take place in Larne led by the Local Church Forum, and in Carrickfergus on the afternoon of the Christmas Lights Switch-On event.

3.5. The Mayor will host an outdoor Christmas carol procession through Ballymena town centre, ending with a mince pies reception at the Braid.

4. General Considerations / Implications

4.1. Financial implications: The cost of delivery of the programme of events is covered within the Tourism, Arts and Culture 2024-2025 budget allocation. Associated costs for the Christmas Lights Switch-On events are funded by the Corporate Services Events budget. Financial support for the Christmas community church services is provided by the Corporate Services Civic Events budget.

4.2. Equality Screening: Equality screening is conducted on the annual events programme.

5. Proposed Way Forward

5.1. Officers will work to deliver all events detailed within the programme.

6. Recommendation or Decision

6.1. It is recommended that Elected Members note the programme of events scheduled for Christmas 2024.

7. Appendices / Links

Appendix 1 – Arts and Culture Guide – Autumn 2024

Mid and East Antrim

threads

Arts & Culture Guide

Autumn/Winter 2024



midandeastantrim.gov.uk



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council



Welcome

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council produces a busy Arts and Culture programme in the borough. There are many performances, events and exhibitions taking place September to December in several fantastic venues such as The Braid, Mid Antrim Museum, Carrickfergus Museum and Civic Centre and Larne Museum and Arts Centre. Whether you want to get dressed up, wrapped in winter woolies or roll your sleeves up, there is something exciting for everyone in Mid and East Antrim this autumn and winter period.

Early nights doesn't mean the fun stops!



Get in touch

We are always looking at ways to make it easier for you to engage with us at Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

We welcome your queries, comments and suggestions. You can contact us directly by telephone on **0300 124 5000**

You can visit or write to us at any of the offices listed to the right:

Ballymena (Civic headquarters)
The Braid
1-29 Bridge Street
Ballymena
BT43 5EJ

Carrickfergus
Civic Centre
11 Antrim Street
Carrickfergus
BT38 7DG

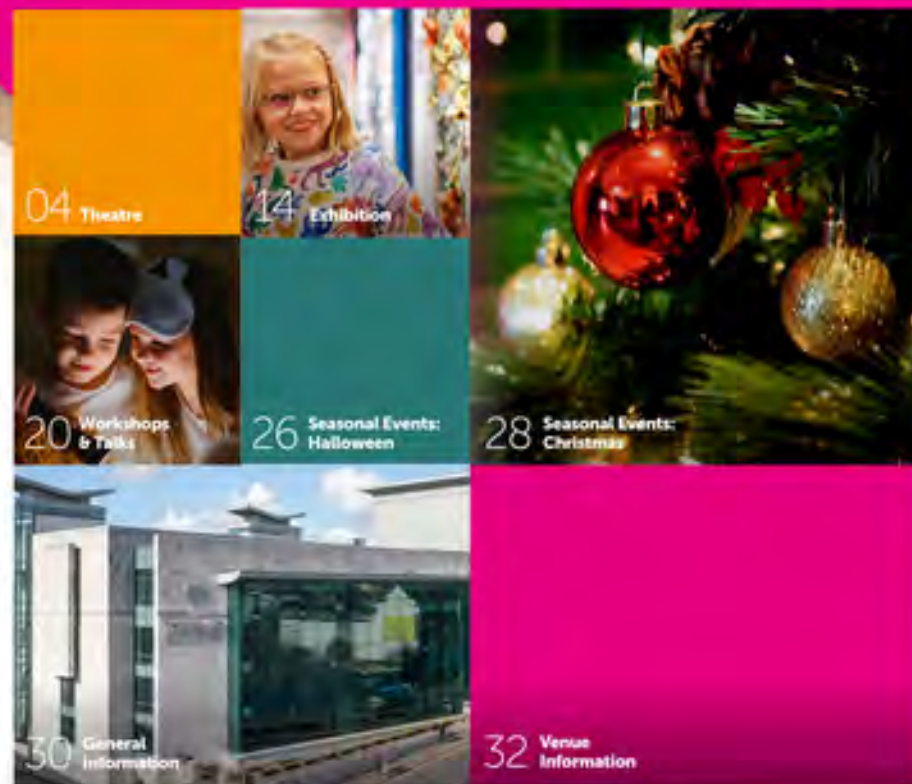
Larne
Smiley Buildings
Victoria Road
Larne
BT40 1RU

Keep up-to-date
You can keep up-to-date with us on social media. We use Facebook, X and Instagram to share the latest news, events and information from Council.

-  [MEA Borough Council](#)
-  [X.com/mea_bc](#)
-  [instagram.com/meaboroughcouncil](#)

Alternative Formats
If you would like this publication in an alternative format such as large print, please contact us at communications@midandeastantrim.gov.uk or call **0300 124 5000**.

This magazine will also be printed in limited quantities and presented in our main Council offices, plus available to read online at www.issuu.com/meabc.



Mid & East Antrim

Theatre

Death in High Heels
by Richard Harris
Friday 13 - Saturday
14 September
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

The Ad Hoc Theatre Group is pleased to present *Death in High Heels* by Richard Harris. Mr. Bevan, manager of his Regent Street fashion business, is about to announce who will run the new branch in Deauville:

Jealousies are clear among the candidates as the time for his decision nears. When one of those in the running collapses and dies after lunch, poisoned by chemicals used in the business, Inspector Charlesworth and Sergeant Wyler have a murder enquiry on their hands. Secrets and lies are rife and more than one person may have harboured resentment towards the victim.

Tickets: £10 & £8
Suitable for ages 14+.

Comedy Club 15th Anniversary
Show: Paddy McDonnell
Saturday 21
September
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

There was no choice but to bring back one of the Braid Comedy Club favourites to mark The 15th Anniversary of the club.

Paddy McDonnell returns to the town hall stage with his unique brand of quick wit and storytelling. Support from Conor Keys, who is no stranger to the local comedy scene. Conor is currently touring with Colin Murphy, as well as hosting the Deckchair and Yumz podcast with Mickey Bartlett. Your host on the night will be Paddy McGaughey.

Advance: £6.50
(including booking fee)
On the door: £8
Suitable for ages 18+

Sex and The City Hall
Tuesday 24 Sept
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Callie, Lottie, Maddy and Sammy are four best friends who work together in City Hall; well, for now, because apparently one of them is getting fired in the morning, but which one? Join the girls as they barricade themselves in City Hall overnight and say 'no surrender' to the powers that be. These women won't go down without a fight. It's all for one, and one for all. From the writer of smash hit shows *Bridemaids of Northern Ireland* and *The Hen Do*, Diona Doherty and Sean Hegarty, bring you this laugh out loud, high energy comedy because sometimes... girls just wanna have fun. Contains strong language.

Concession: £26
(including booking fee)
Suitable for ages 16+.

Flash Harry
Friday 4 Oct
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Flash Harry presents a show that embraces the very essence of Queen's live performances. Audiences will see the band rocking out Queen's greatest hits from 'Radio Gaga', to 'We Are the Champions', 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and everything in between. It's live music entertainment at its best.

Tickets: £25.50
(including booking fee)
Suitable for all ages.



Theatre

Here Comes The Girls
Friday 27 September
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Get ready to be blown away by the ultimate celebration of some of the most iconic female artists of all time! This multimedial show is a feast for the senses, featuring the likes of Cher, Madonna, Lady Gaga, Shania Twain, Annie Lennox, Gloria Estefan, Blondie, Katy Perry, Adele, Abba and Baranarama!

Get ready to dance, sing and be swept away by the energy and excitement of this spectacular, fast-paced performance!

Advance: £26
(including booking fee)
Suitable for all ages.



The Witches are Back
Saturday 28 Sept
Starting 2pm
The Braid Theatre

Is it just us, or is there a little touch of Dark Magic in the air this Halloween? Light the cursed Black Flame Candle and breathe new life into the old. This Salem Trio are up to no good once again! Join them (with caution!) as they use their most powerful magic to become young and beautiful FOREVER! Can you stop them? Come on down, but be sure to keep your distance! They have special BBQ sauce made specifically for children!

Concession: £4
Suitable for ages 3+

The Man Who Swallowed a Dictionary
Thursday 3 Oct
Starting 7.30pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Green Shoot Productions is delighted to present *The Man Who Swallowed A Dictionary*, a new play by Bobby Niblock. This one-man show chronicles the remarkable life of Ervine from the backstreets of East Belfast to Long Kesh prisoner to political negotiations.

Ervine was also known for his grasp of the English language and capacity for using 'big words' in television interviews, hence the title of the play.

Tickets: £24.50
(including booking fee)
Suitable for ages 16+

Tim McGarry: 'Ridiculous'
Saturday 5 Oct
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Tim McGarry, the lanky star of *Give My Head Peace* and the *Blame Game* has a brand new stand-up show - *Ridiculous*. Tim's father advised him to "always have a sense of your own ridiculousness." But let's face it we're all taking ourselves too seriously these days. So join Tim as he examines life, politics and the modern world and looks for the ludicrous, highlights the hilarious and laughs out loud at the frankly ridiculous.

Just remember, you can look ridiculous, you can feel ridiculous, you can be ridiculous. Contains strong language.

Tickets: £24
(including booking fee)
Suitable for ages 16+.

The Band of the Royal Marines
Monday 7 Oct
Starting 7.30pm
The Braid, Ballymena

The Royal Marines Band will perform in concert at the Braid as part of a visit to Northern Ireland. The concert is free and tickets can be obtained through Ticketsource.

Discover more at:
members.services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

A Night With the Country Stars: Philomena Begley
Friday 11 Oct
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Philomena Begley, widely known as the Queen of Irish Country, she has had a glittering career that has seen her achieve countless accolades and scoring dozens of No.1 hit songs that include 'The Blanket on the Ground', 'Truck Driving Woman' and 'The Queen of the Silver Dollar' to name but a few.

Join our national treasure Philomena Begley with special guests John McNicholl, Kathy Durkin and Kenny Archer for the memorable night of music, song and laughter.

Tickets: £28
(including booking fee)
Suitable for all ages



Theatre

The Spooky Squad: The Haunting of Ivywood Manor

Saturday 12 Oct
Starting 2pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Join us on the bone-chilling adventure of four brave friends and their loyal canine Companion, as they unravel mysteries and capture bad guys! The esteemed Ivywood Manor, a hotel with a dark and infamous past, has fallen victim to a haunting presence. Whispers of ghostly apparitions and strange goings-on send shivers down the spines of locals, and it's up to the Spooky Squad to uncover the truth.

With thrills, laughs and a touch of suspense, can our team uncover the secrets of Ivywood Manor and put an end to this supernatural terror?

Tickets: £4
Suitable for ages 3+.

Ballymena Chamber Orchestra and Community Choir Presents: A Night of Spooktacular Music

Friday 18 Oct
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

To celebrate Autumn, the Ballymena Chamber Orchestra and Community Choir are delighted to present music for the time of year. The programme will include a wonderful variety of music from Vivaldi's Autumn played by violinist Rebekah Durston. The programme will include music for Harvest and spooktacular seasonal favourites for all the family. Fancy Dress encouraged but not required. A great night not to be missed!

Tickets: £16.50
(including booking fee)
Children under 12: £9
Suitable for all ages.

The Ballymena Fall Fashion Show

Friday 18 Oct
Starting 7pm
Tullyglass Hotel,
Ballymena

The Fashion show will showcase the style that Ballymena retail has to offer. With special guests, spot prizes and Charity raffle on the night.

More details to follow on ticket launch!

Mickey Bartlett: Thicc!

Saturday 19 Oct
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

After a phenomenal 2023, Micky Bartlett brings his brand new stand-up show "THICCI" to venues across the UK & Ireland this Autumn! The Lurgan comedy colossus has been selling out shows all over the world! You've seen him on podcasts; you've seen him on telly, now come see him LIVE!

If you are looking for a rock-solid sure-fire stand-up who is going to get the crowd quaking with laughter look no further. Contains strong language.

Tickets: £17.50
(including booking fees)
Suitable for ages 18+.

The Legend of Luke Kelly

Friday 25 Oct
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

The Legend of Luke Kelly is an authentic show celebrating the life and songs of Ireland's most iconic and greatest folk singer. Created and performed by the renowned Chris Kavanagh the show is not a tribute but a journey through Luke's music that has received rave reviews in Ireland and abroad.

In 2011 Chris was asked by John Sheahan to perform with The Dubliners on their German tour and Luke's family are still in regular attendance at his concerts.

Tickets: £25
Suitable for all ages.

Storytelling and Live Music Performance

Tuesday 29 Oct
Starting 7pm
Carrickfergus
Town Hall

Experience the Islandmagee Witch Trial brought to life through a live storytelling performance with music and visual imagery. Created by professional storyteller Vicky McFarland and musician Lee McFarland, the production is based wholly on Andrew Sneddon's extensive research into the trial.

Tickets: £6
Suitable for ages 12+.

OoOoOoOo



Theatre

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After Ours: Starring Conal Gallen
Saturday 2 November
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

The hilarious story of how the infamous Bridie Murphy (played by Conal Gallen), and her hapless husband Willie, have inherited their very own pub. Not only do they not have a clue what they are doing, but they enlist the help of their best friend and next door neighbour, Betty Head. Along with her dim-witted son, Dick, they set out to bring the newly refurbished Pub into the 21st century. What can go wrong? Early booking is strongly advised.

Concession: £25.50
(including booking fee)
Suitable for ages 16+

Ballymena War Memorial Centenary Event
Thursday 7 Nov
Starting 7.30pm
The Braid, Ballymena

To mark the centenary of Ballymena War Memorial, a performance in music, readings and song, will take place in the Studio Theatre at the Braid. Entitled 'Wreath of Remembrance' it will focus on the story of four Ballymena boys who laid the first wreath at the memorial in 1924 and their fathers, who were lost during the War. Booking will be through Ticketsource

Discover more at:
Members.services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Vittorio Angelone: Who Do You Think You Are... I Am
Friday 8 Nov
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Following the success of his ginormous 68 date run with 67 sold out shows (thanks Middlesbrough) viral sensation and all round great guy Vittorio Angelone has extending his tour into the Autumn! As well as co-hosting Mike & Vittorio's Guide to Parenting alongside fellow comedian Mike Rice, he released his first comedy special in September 2023 that has already amassed over 100 thousand views. Following his 5-star, sold-out, award-nominated debut (which solved literally every problem in the world) his new show looks inward to find out who exactly he thinks he is. As seen on the internet, unless your algorithm hasn't blessed you thusly.

Tickets: £19.50
(including booking fee)
Suitable for ages 16+

Bjorn Identity: 50th Anniversary Waterloo
Saturday 9 Nov
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

World-class Tribute to ABBA - The Bjorn Identity. Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Waterloo.

Following recent tours of Germany & Austria The Bjorn Identity return for yet another smash-hit Abba night, delivering a brand-new show. Karen Rush & Sophie Grier as Agnetha & Frida, deliver uncanny vocal prowess and undeniable stage presence. Along with Benny's famous spinning white Yamaha piano, when you experience The Bjorn Identity you will go home feeling like a No.1.

Tickets: £25.50
(including booking fee)
Suitable for ages 6+

William Thompson: Scumbag Millionaire
Friday 15 Nov
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

What would you do if you became a millionaire overnight? Would you invest it? Save it for a rainy day? Or blow it as quickly as possible? This is the question that William Thompson (Mudblood Podcast, William of Orangedale, Tea With Meghan) will answer in his brand new show *Scumbag Millionaire*, the follow up to his hugely successful 2023 show *Barely Noticeable*. Scumbag Millionaire picks up where the story left off, with William receiving his inheritance at the age of 18, with chaos ensuing.

Tickets: £16.50
(including booking fee)
Suitable for ages 18+



The Priests: Time To Say Goodbye
Saturday 16 Nov
Starting 8pm
The Braid Ballymena

The Priests celebrate 50 years of musical association. Having achieved millions of record sales, received multiple awards, travelled the globe, and played countless concerts as The Priests, Frs Eugene, Martin (brothers) and David perform their last ever concerts as a group. The evening will see The Priests perform many of their classic songs including Ave Maria, Amazing Grace, How Great Thou Art and You Raise Me Up. Continuing throughout to serve as full time priests.

Tickets: £29.50
(including booking fee)
Suitable for all ages.



Theatre

A Night At The Grand Ole Opry

Thursday 21 Nov
Starting 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Enjoy a fantastic evening with 3 of Ireland's biggest and best Country stars, as they present some of the most well know hit songs of Country Music. Sing along with iconic hits from Don Williams, Johnny Cash, Tammy Wynette and many more. Johnny Brady, Claudia Buckley and John Hogan will showcase songs a whole host of hit Country songs from 1950's and onward.

Tickets: £29
(including booking fee)
Suitable for all ages.

The Alternative Medicine Theatre Presents: Snow White and the Seven Christmas Elves

Thursday 5 -
Saturday 7 Dec
11am, 3pm
and 7.30pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Snow White is the most talented girl in Christmas Town and Queen Misérables knows it. When Snow White has to run from the wicked Queen Misérables, she shelters with seven Christmas elves who work in Santa's workshop building toys. Prince Noel and the others must find her before it's too late.

Tickets:
Adults £11.50, £8.50
Family Ticket £36
(including booking fee)
Suitable for all ages.

Ballymena Chamber Orchestra present 'A Christmas Celebration'

Tuesday 17 December
6.30pm and 8pm
The Braid, Ballymena

Join Ballymena Chamber Orchestra for a Christmas Celebration! Enjoy Christmas classics surrounded by the twinkling lights of the Braid's Atrium. A perfect opportunity to relax and unwind after Christmas shopping.

Tickets: £16.50
(including booking fee)
Children under 12: £9
Suitable for all ages.



Exhibition

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Stitching a Story: Past and Future

On now until
Saturday 26 Oct
10am - 4pm
Monday - Saturday
The Braid, Ballymena

Textile artist Wilma Kirkpatrick's award-winning work has been exhibited across UK, Europe and America. The quilts each tell a story using a range of embroidery techniques using domestic and industrial machines, with hand stitching to construct them. Each quilt has taken up to a year to create. The stories portrayed through the work range from emigration to events in the artist's life.

For further information
please email:
✉ braidmuseum@midandeantrim.gov.uk

**From Adversity
to Achievement:
The Story of the
Cochrane Family
from Cullybackey**
Monday 2 Sept -
Saturday 5 Oct
10am - 4pm
Monday - Saturday
The Braid, Ballymena

This small exhibition in the museum atrium tells the story of the Cochrane family. Three brothers, Raymond, Drew and Ian, achieved fame in their chosen fields despite the difficult circumstances two of the brothers found themselves faced with. First edition copies of author Ian Cochrane's novels, plus original paintings by Raymond and golf memorabilia from golfer Drew will be on display.

**Re-imagining
Carrickfergus
Exhibition**
Saturday 7 Sept -
Saturday 5 Oct
10am - 4pm
Monday - Saturday
Carrickfergus Museum
& Civic Centre

The CineArch Studio exhibition displays the creative work of architecture and design students at Queen's University Belfast who have re-imagined the town of Carrickfergus. The exhibition features the adaptive reuse of historical buildings, urban design proposals for the town centre, and experimental film projects, creating a narrative that bridges Carrickfergus's rich history with its sustainable future.

**Larne Motor Club
70 Anniversary
Exhibition**
Monday 9 -
Friday 27 Sept
10am - 4pm
Larne Museum
& Arts Centre

This exhibition will look back over 70 years of Larne Motor Club and will include film footage and club memorabilia. Formed in 1954, the first event took place the following year with their first national event being staged in 1974 at Boyd's Quarry.

Many famous people have competed in club events including Barry McGuigan and Kenny McKinstry. The exhibition will also be open Saturday 14 September.



Exhibition

Carnlough Heritage Hub Exhibition

Saturday 14 -
Sunday 15 Sept
2pm - 5pm
Carnlough Town Hall

Log Cabin to Lightning Streak: Quilt Exhibition Tour

Wednesday 2 Oct
2pm - 3pm
The Braid, Ballymena

An opportunity to tour the 'Stitching A Story' exhibition with museum staff and see a range of historic quilts from Mid-Antrim Museum's collection. This is a special event to mark Positive Aging Week.

To book, please email: braidmuseum@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Access the Collection:

A Stitch in Time
Friday 4 Oct -
Friday 1 Nov
Monday - Friday
10am - 4pm
Larne Museum & Arts Centre

Access and enjoy a display of quilts and related artefacts from Larne Museum's collection. The display will include a signature quilt from Cairncastle National School dated August 1887. The exhibition will be also open on Saturday 12 October.

Carrick Art Club: Autumn Exhibition

Saturday 12 -
Saturday 26 Oct
10am - 4pm
Carrickfergus Museum & Civic Centre

A free exhibition of striking and diverse collection of works by local artists.



Re-imagining the Islandmagee Witches Exhibition

Monday 26 Oct
- Saturday 2 Nov
10am - 4pm
Carrickfergus Museum & Civic Centre

Another chance to experience this spell-binding exhibition developed by Carrickfergus Museum and a multidisciplinary team from Ulster University last autumn. Featuring a range of interpretative experiences, including a VR experience, the exhibition tells the story of the last witch trial in Ireland, which took place in Carrickfergus in 1711.



Exhibition

Arthur Armstrong: A Centenary Exhibition

Saturday 2 Nov 2024 -

Saturday 1 Mar 2025

Carrickfergus Museum & Civic Centre

Born in Carrickfergus in 1924, Arthur Armstrong went on to become one of the leading Northern Irish painters of his generation. Although he came late to art as a career, having originally started training as an architect, Armstrong found early recognition and was soon part of the group around Gerard Dillon and George Campbell.

His work is in collections including National

Museums Northern Ireland, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, Malaga Museum of Fine Arts and Limerick Municipal Art Gallery. This exhibition will bring paintings from the museum's collection together with a substantial number from private collections to create the first notable exhibition of Armstrong's work since an Arts Council of Northern Ireland retrospective in 1980.



Knit One, Purl One

Friday 8 - 29 Nov

10am - 4pm

Larne Museum
& Arts Centre

A small hallway display of locally made hand knitted items including soft toys and baby clothes.

Long Exposure: An Evening with James Hughes

Friday 15 Nov

Starting 7pm

The Braid, Ballymena

An in-conversation event with Ballymena photographer, James Hughes, with guest artist and musician Bobby Speers. This is an opportunity to hear from the photographer about his own work and marks the opening of James' retrospective exhibition which captures abandoned spaces alongside evocative images taken with his own imitable distinctive style. Prior booking is required.

Discover more at:
braidmuseum@midandeasternlinc.gov.uk

Suitable for ages 12+



Workshops & Talks

Veterans Support Programme

September - Dec
Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus

The Veterans Support Programme was established by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council to provide a range of events for veterans. Bus trips, walks, heritage talks and workshops will be taking place throughout the coming months. The Veterans Support Programme is open to those who served in uniform or in civilian support services, and family members.

For further information please email:
✉ david.hume@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Super Saturdays

Saturday 7 Sept
11am - 12pm
Carrickfergus Museum and Civic Centre

Inspired by the museum collections, these monthly sessions are designed to support early child development. With songs, storytelling, crafts and more to entertain and delight our littlest visitors! Book via Eventbrite.

Gibraltar Evacuees 80th Anniversary

Tuesday 10 Sept
Ballymena Bus Tour
9.45am - 1pm

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the arrival of Gibraltarian refugees in Ballymena and on Gibraltar Day, 10 September, there will be a bus trip focused on the sites of the evacuee camps around Ballymena area. The bus trip is free, but places must be pre-booked.

Discover more at:
✉ Members.services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Centenary Tour of Ballymena Town Hall

Saturday 14 Sept
Starting 11am
The Braid, Ballymena

Ballymena Town Hall dominates the skyline from the southern approaches of the town. The present Town Hall was constructed between 1924-1928, replacing an earlier town hall which had been destroyed by fire in 1919. Join Mid-Antrim Museum staff in the Town Hall civic rooms as they give an account of the day the future King, George VI, and his wife, the late Queen Mother, visited Ballymena whilst on their honeymoon to lay the foundation stone.



A Talk by Mary Watson

Saturday 14 Sept
Starting 7pm
Carnlough Heritage Hub

A talk on Frances Anne Vane Tempest Marchioness of Londonderry. Routes, Connections and Networks. Refreshments will be provided.

'Bad Bridget' Talk

Wednesday 25 Sept
Starting 7.30pm
Carrickfergus Town hall & Civic Centre

Join Drs Elaine Farrell and Leanne McCormick to hear them talk about their number one best-selling book, *Bad Bridget: Crime, Mayhem and the Lives of Irish Emigrant Women*. Their talk will include the stories of some of the women they came across as part of the project, which focuses on Irish girls and women in nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century North America. Delivered as part of the Winter talks programme by Carrickfergus & District Historical Society, in partnership with Carrickfergus Museum.

Gibraltar Connections Talk

Thursday 26 Sept
The Braid, Ballymena

We are delighted to have a representative of the Friends of Gibraltar Historical Trust speak on the subject of Links with Gibraltar at this special event at the Braid, when a schools project competition will also be launched.

The talk is free but places must be pre-booked.

To book, contact
✉ members.services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Super Saturdays

Saturday 5 Oct
11am - 12pm
Carrickfergus Museum & Civic Centre

Inspired by the museum collections, these monthly sessions are designed to support early child development. With songs, storytelling, crafts and more to entertain and delight our littlest visitors! Book via Eventbrite.



Workshops & Talks

Storytime

Saturday 12 Oct
10.30am - 11.30am
Larne Museum & Arts Centre

Join us for a free interactive storytelling session with themed activities based on a children's storybook. Booking preferable.

Discover more at:
☎ 028 28 262445
✉ marian.kelso@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Suitable for ages 4-11

Thriller Dance Workshop

Tuesday 29 Oct
11am - 1pm
Ballymena Pop Up Shop

Learn all the spooky moves to the ultimate classic Halloween song! Booking is essential.

Discover more at:
thebraid.ticketsolve.com

Super Saturdays

Saturday 2 Nov
11am - 12pm
Carrickfergus Museum & Civic Centre

Inspired by the museum collections, these monthly sessions are designed to support early child development. With songs, storytelling, crafts and more to entertain and delight our littlest visitors! Booking via Eventbrite.

Whitehead War Memorial Anniversary
Tuesday 5 Nov
Starting 7.30pm
Whitehead Community Centre

The 75th anniversary of the dedication of the Whitehead Second World War memorial plaque will be marked with a talk on the names from the memorial by local historian and artist Steve Diamond. The venue will be Whitehead Community Centre, King's Road entrance.

Discover more at:
✉ Members.services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Storytime

Saturday 9 Nov
10.30am - 11.30am
Larne Museum & Arts Centre

Join us for a free interactive storytelling session with themed activities based on a children's storybook. Booking preferable. Suitable for age 4-11. Londonderry, Routes, Connections and Networks. Refreshments will be provided.

Discover more at:
☎ 028 28 262445
✉ marian.kelso@midandeastantrim.gov.uk



CARRICKFERGUS
MUSEUM



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Lino Print Workshop

Carrickfergus Museum
Saturday 2 November, 10am - 2pm
Tickets: £8

midandeastantrim.gov.uk/museums



Workshops & Talks



**Long Exposure:
An Evening with
James Hughes**
Friday 15 Nov
Starting 7pm
The Braid, Ballymena

An in-conversation event with Ballymena photographer, James Hughes, with guest artist and musician Bobby Speers. This is an opportunity to hear from the photographer about his own work and marks the opening of James' retrospective exhibition which captures abandoned spaces alongside evocative images taken with his own imitable distinctive style. Booking is required.

Discover more at:
✉ braidmuseum@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Suitable for ages 12+.

Ghost Writer: The Story of Charlotte Riddell. A Talk by David Hume
Thursday 21 Nov
7.30pm - 9pm
Larne Museum & Arts Centre

Charlotte Riddell was born in Carrickfergus and was one of the most prominent Victorian ghost story writers. She produced over 30 novels and 56 books in total including short stories, and was also editor of a prominent London literary journal.

Despite this success, Charlotte Riddell is almost forgotten in

her native area. This talk looks at the life and times of Charlotte Riddell, intermingled with topics such as why the Victorians had such an interest in ghost stories, and includes some short extracts from her works. This is a free event; places are limited.

Discover more at:
☎ 028 28 262443
✉ marian.kelso@midandeastantrim.gov.uk



1970's Night!
Wednesday 27 Nov
Starting 7.30pm
Carrickfergus
Town Hall

A chance to escape down memory lane as the Carrickfergus & District Historical Society mark the 50th anniversary of their very first meeting in 1974. With films, games and more...

Murder Mystery Event
Wednesday 4 Dec
Starting 7pm
Carrickfergus
Town Hall

Join us for an ABBA themed murder mystery party delivered by Play Dead NI. The event will also include the launch of a journal of the proceeding of the anniversary conference held in September. Costumes welcome!

Storytime
Saturday 7 Dec
10.30am - 11.30am
Larne Museum
& Arts Centre

Join us for a free interactive storytelling session with themed activities based on a children's storybook. Booking preferable.

Discover more at:
☎ 028 28 262443
✉ marian.kelso@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Suitable for ages 4-11.



Seasonal Events

**Carrickfergus
Artisan Market**
Saturday 5 Oct
11am - 3pm
Carrickfergus
Town Hall

The Market showcases a range of local Artisan Producers with regular traders and exciting new traders coming along every month.

**Pumpkin
Competition
Town Centres**
Monday 28
- Thursday 31 Oct
10am - 4pm
Pop Up Shops in
Larne Carrickfergus
and Ballymena

An exciting new competition. Bring your pumpkin to one of our pop up shops between Saturday 26 - 28 October to register and display your pumpkin. Best pumpkin will win a £100 voucher to spend in Larne, Carrickfergus and Ballymena.

Halloween Hooley
Tuesday 29 Oct
6pm - 8.30pm
Larne Town Park

Have some frightful fun at Larne's Halloween Hooley! Larne Town Park will be full of spooky going's-on and frightful fun.

Halloweena
Wednesday 30 Oct
6pm - 8.30pm
People's Park, Ballymena

Will you venture into the eerie People's Park this Halloween? Free spine chilling evening of hair-raising family fun.

**CarrickFEARgus:
SOLD OUT**
Thursday 31 Oct
6pm - 8.30pm
Shaftesbury Park, Carrickfergus

Join us for a fun-filled, hair-raising experience - full of chills and thrills for Halloween. This is a ticketed event.



**HEY THERE
PUMPKIN!
(LOOKING GUORDE-GOUS)**

Seasonal Events

Christmas Light Switch Ons

Ballymena
Saturday 16 Nov
12pm - 7pm
Ballymena Town
Centre

It is the Season for Sharing. Kick off the Christmas festivities in Ballymena on Saturday 16 November from 12 noon with lots of festive family fun.

Larne
Friday 22 Nov
5.30pm - 8.30pm
Larne Town Centre

Make your Christmas merry and bright with the Larne Christmas Lights Switch On, Friday 22 November.

Carrickfergus
Saturday 23 Nov
1pm - 6pm
Carrickfergus
Town Centre

Come along for an afternoon of festive family fun, with music, dance and Christmas characters to get you in the spirit before the lights switch on at High Street.

Carrickfergus
Artisan Market
Saturday 7 Dec
11am - 3pm
Carrickfergus
Town Hall

The Carrickfergus Artisan Market runs on the first Saturday of every month from 11am - 3pm. The market is situated in Market Place during the summer months and in Carrickfergus Town Hall during the winter months. The Market showcases a range of local Artisan Producers with regular traders and exciting new traders coming along every month.



General Information

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Booking Tickets

Tickets for theatre shows, talks and events can be booked in person, by telephone and online. It is important that you mention any special requirements to our staff when booking, we will be pleased to assist you in any way we can. Tickets cannot be reserved.

To book online, please visit:
thebraid.ticketsolve.com

Call the box office on: **028 2563 5077**

Box Office at The Braid:
Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm
Saturday, 10am - 4pm

Group bookings

We offer group discounts on some performances. Please contact the Box Office for more information.

Concessions

We offer concession rates for some performances to children aged 16 and under, seniors, the unemployed, students and those who are registered disabled. However, this can vary depending on the event. Proof of identification may be needed.

Data Protection

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council will collect and process your personal information to facilitate your booking. We will keep your information secure, accurate and for no longer than is necessary in accordance with data protection laws. Box office staff may ask to take your contact details to add to our customer database. This is for administration and marketing purposes i.e. to keep you informed about shows and events put on by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. Our staff will not add your details to the database without your permission. If you wish to find out more about how we control and process personal data and protect your privacy, please see: midandeastantrim.gov.uk/privacy-notice

Theatre Rules

- Tickets must be presented.
- Once purchased, we cannot exchange or refund tickets.
- Switch off your mobile phone or pager during an event.
- If late, you will need to wait until a break in the performance before going into the theatre.
- No cameras, video, and tape-recording equipment permitted within the theatre.
- Adults need to accompany children under the age of 14.
- Some shows have age restrictions. Children under three can only attend shows aimed specifically at children.
- You cannot resell a ticket for profit or commercial gain.
- If you have a problem, let one of our Ushers know at once. They will try to fix the problem.
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council do not allow smoking in their venues.

Accessibility

- Assistance dogs are welcome.
- Easy to read and Braille signage.
- Deaf Loop System.
- Access for wheelchair users.
- Accessible toilets fitted with grab rails, sink lever operated taps, low level mirrors and pull cord alarms.
- Lifts.
- Allocated Wheelchair spaces for all performances. If required, please advise at time of booking.
- Free carer seat for customers who need assistance to attend events.
- We ask customers to let us know of their needs when booking.
- Quiet Spaces.



Venue Information



Mid Antrim Museum at The Braid & Braid Arts Centre

📍 1 - 29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ
 ☎ 028 2563 5077
 ✉ braidmuseum@midandeantrim.gov.uk
 ✉ reception@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Venue Hire
 ✉ ross.hickey@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Opening Hours
 Monday - Saturday
 10am - 4pm

Car Parking
 Car parking for people with disabilities is available within the main Church Street car park which is directly opposite the Braid centre.



Larne Museum & Arts Centre

📍 2 Victoria Road, Larne, BT40 1RN
 ☎ 028 2826 2443
 ✉ marian.kelso@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Venue Hire: Larne Museum & Arts Centre
 ✉ marian.kelso@midandeantrim.gov.uk
 Venue Hire: Larne Town Hall and Larne Market Yard
 ✉ heritagevenues@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Opening Times
 Monday - Friday
 10am - 4pm
 Saturday, once monthly
 10am - 4pm

Car Parking
 Parking is available at Fairhill Car Park on Victoria Road. To use the special access driveway to the side of the museum, call in advance.



Carrickfergus Museum & Civic Centre

📍 11 Antrim Street, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DG
 ☎ 028 9335 8241
 ✉ carrickfergusmuseum@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Venue Hire
 ✉ carrickfergusbookings@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Opening Times
 Monday - Friday
 10am - 4pm
 Saturday
 10am - 4pm

Car Parking
 Carrickfergus museum is within easy walking distance of town centre car parks. Disabled parking is adjacent to the building.



The venues are available for hire for performances, corporate meetings, conferences, community events and weddings.

Arthur Cottage

& Interpretative Centre

Open all year

Wednesday to Sunday, 11am - 3pm

shapedbyseaandstone.com





LARNE
MUSEUM
& ARTS
CENTRE



CARRICKFERGUS
MUSEUM



Mid & East
Antrim
Borough Council



Council/Committee:	Neighbourhood and Communities
Date:	22 October 2024
Report Title:	Final Grant of Amusement Permit
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Patricia Allen, Head of Public Protection, Health & Wellbeing
Approver:	Philip Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This purpose of this report is to seek approval from Elected Members for the final grant for an Amusement Permit Application at 33-35 High Street, Carrickfergus.

2. Background

- 2.1. Councils are responsible for the granting and renewal of Amusement Permits under Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. The purpose of the Amusement Permit is to control the number of gaming machines at a premise, the prizes awarded and to prevent persons under eighteen accessing certain gaming machines. The permits are processed and issued by district Councils, however enforcement of the legislation falls to PSNI.
- 2.2. The requirements of the legislation are that the Council must consider as part of application process the fitness of a person or body corporate to hold an amusement permit. The Council shall have regard to the character, reputation and financial standing of the person or body applying. The Council also stipulate that planning permission for the premises to be used as an amusement arcade is in place at the time of application.
- 2.3. Application for amusement permits are either made for a provisional grant, or a final grant of a permit. A provisional grant covers the principle of allowing the applicant to open an amusement arcade at the location. The final grant of amusement permit will be used to confirm that the premises has been fitted out as per plans submitted in provisional application.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. The following application for the final grant Amusement Permit has been received.



Applicant	Premises	Address	Days and times applied for	Type of permit
Oasis Retail Services Limited	Oasis Gaming Centre	33-35 High Street Carrickfergus	Monday – Saturday 09:00- Midnight Sunday 11:00- Midnight	Final

- 3.2 The application is for a new amusement arcade at 33 High Street, Carrickfergus. The PSNI have been consulted and they have no objections to the application. The applicant has submitted character and financial references for the company and directors. The company has held Amusement Permits for other arcades in the Borough for a significant length of time.
- 3.3 The premises in High Street received planning permission for use as an amusement arcade on 2 October 2023. The Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee approved the grant of the Provisional Amusement Permit for this location at their meeting on 9 April 2024.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. It is important that Council has a fair and transparent process for dealing with application for licences and permits, ensuring that all appropriate views and information are considered during the process.
- 4.2. If the Committee refuse the application for the amusement permit the applicant has the right to appeal the decision to County Court.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1. This application meets all the requirements in the legislation.
- 5.2. As specified in the previously mentioned report for the grant of a provisional licence, the final licence can be granted when works to the premise are completed in line with plans submitted.
- 5.3. An inspection of the premise has been carried out by a council licencing officer and can confirm that works have been completed as per the plans submitted. Building Control have advised that all works have been approved.
- 5.4. The Public Protection, Health and Wellbeing department of Council is satisfied that a Final Amusement Permit can be granted.
- 5.5 Under the Council's Scheme of Delegation this Committee is authorised to make the following decision to grant and issue the permit under section 111



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of Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1. Elected Members are asked to approve the granting of a final Amusement Permit for premises situated at 33-35 High Street, Carrickfergus.



Council/Committee: Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee

Date: 22 October 2024

Report Title: Grant of Pavement Café Licence

Publication Status: Open

Author: Patricia Allen, Head of Public protection, Health and Wellbeing

Approver: Philip Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval for a pavement café licence at Luna Café, 2 North Street, Carrickfergus.

2. Background

- 2.1. Council is responsible for the issuing of Pavement Café Licences Under the Licencing of Pavement Cafes Act 2014.
- 2.2. The purpose of issuing the licence is to authorise a person who carries on a business involving the supply of food or drink (in or from premises) to place temporary furniture (tables, chairs, etc.) on a public area for use by customers.
- 2.3. When application is made to Council, licencing officers undertake a visit to the premises to discuss the proposed pavement café plans and ensure suitability of the area under the regulations before consulting with Department for Infrastructure Roads for their comment.
- 2.4. The Council's licensing policy on pavement café was initially approved in 2016 and reviewed in 2019 and 2022. The most recent review agreed a zero fee for the licence and also agreed that the licences would have no expiry date (open-ended.)

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. The following applications for the grant of a pavement café licence have been received.



Applicant	Premises	Address	Days and times applied for	Type of licence
Neill Johnston	Luna	2 North Street Carrickfergus	Monday – Sunday 08:00 – 21:00	Pavement Café Licence

- 3.2. As per the normal procedure Department for Infrastructure Roads were consulted regarding the application. A formal response has been received and advice has been provided for some minor amendments to the layout plan required to ensure the safety of public using the pavement café area. A site visit to the location has been carried out by a Council licencing officer.
- 3.3. A public notice has been advertised on the council website and at the business premises, advising of the intention to apply for a pavement café licence and inviting anyone to make representations to Council within 28 days. No objections or representations have been received.
- 3.4. Section 4 of the legislation places an onus on a district council to grant a pavement café licence unless one of the following grounds for refusing an application applies:
- the proposed pavement café area is unsuitable for that purpose
 - the use of that area as a pavement café would be likely to result in undue interference or inconvenience to persons or vehicles in the vicinity, or in disorder
 - the applicant has made, in connection with an application, a statement they knew to be false, or failed to fix a notice to the premises specified in the application, or has had a pavement café licence revoked for reasons within the applicant's control
- 3.5. This location when under different ownership was previously issued with a Pavement café licence in 2016 and there were no reported issues.
- 3.6. It is felt that this location is suitable for approval and none of grounds for refusing an application apply. The department is satisfied that this premises should be granted a pavement café licence.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. It is important that the Council has a fair and transparent process for dealing with application for pavement café licences and ensuring that all appropriate views and information are considered during the process.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 The Public Protection, Health and Wellbeing department of Council is satisfied that this premises can be granted a pavement café licence.



**Mid & East
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- 5.2 Under the Council's Scheme of Delegation the Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee is authorised to make the following decision to grant and issue the licence under Section 4 of Licencing of Pavement Cafes Act 2014.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1 Elected Members are asked to approve the granting of a pavement café licence for premises trading as Luna, at 2 North Street, Carrickfergus.



Council/Committee: Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee

Date: 22 October 2024

Report Title: Grant of Stationary Street Trading Licence

Publication Status: Open

Author: Patricia Allen, Head of Public Protection, Health & Wellbeing

Approver: Philip Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval for the grant of a stationary street trading licence under Section 5 of Street Trading Act (NI) 2001

2. Background

2.1 The Council is responsible for the issuing of street trading licences under the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001. Stationary street trading licences are for the purposes of selling goods from a vehicle/trailer at a fixed point. Licences can only be granted at locations that the Council has designated for street trading.

2.2 The legislation places an obligation on Councils to grant an application for a street trading licence unless there are sufficient reasons to refuse the application. The legislation lists a number of potential mandatory and discretionary reasons that can be used to refuse a licence application. Street trading licences only give permission to trade on public roads.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

3.1 The previously designated street trading site at Meadowbank Road in Carrickfergus is currently vacant and has been advertised on the Council website. The Licensing Team has received the following application requesting a stationary street trading licence to trade at the site.

Applicant	Trading name	Items for sale	Vehicle type
Daniel Thompson	McBronsons Burger Bar	Hot Food	Trailer

3.2 The applicant has supplied the necessary documentation in respect of the Application. The inspecting officer is satisfied with the proposed vehicle, that all of the requirements for the licence have been met and that none of the mandatory or discretionary reasons for refusal apply.



- 3.3 As per existing Council Street Trading policy all mobile and stationary licences are issued for a calendar year and all expire on 31 December each year. The fee for licences issued part way through a year is calculated on pro rata basis and in this case will cover 2 months.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1 It is important that the Council has a fair and reasonable procedure for managing street trading activities in the Borough.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 The department is satisfied that the applicant should be granted a street trading licence until 31 December 2024.
- 5.2 Under the Council's Scheme of Delegation the Neighbourhoods and Communities Committee is authorised to make the following decision to grant and issue the licence under Section 6 of Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1 Elected Members are asked to approve the granting of a stationary street trading licence to Daniel Thompson for McBronsons Burger Bar at Meadowbank Road Carrickfergus



Council/Committee:	Neighbourhoods & Communities
Date:	22 October 2024
Report Title:	Registration of Skin Piercing Business
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Patricia Allen, Head of Public Protection, Health & Wellbeing
Approver:	Phillip Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval for the registration of one business under the Council's Skin Piercing Bye Laws.

2. Background

Legal Background

- 2.1 Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985, the Council is responsible for registering and regulating businesses which carry out skin piercing. This can include ear piercing, cosmetic piercing, semi-permanent skin colouring, tattooing, acupuncture and electrolysis.

Skin Piercing Byelaws

- 2.2 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council in pursuance of section 90 (c) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 and Article 14(7) of the 1985 Order set byelaws for the purposes of securing the cleanliness of premises registered under Article 14 of Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. These byelaws set out the requirements regarding fittings in those premises and of registered persons and persons assisting them and the cleansing and so far as appropriate sterilisation of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the businesses of skin piercing activities.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

Applications Received

- 3.1 An application for registration has been received from the following premise to be registered under the byelaws for a skin piercing practice:
 - Ioana Vararean, Recharge, 11 Holland Park, Ballymena, BT43 6JS for acupuncture;



- 3.2 Inspection of the premise has found that the fittings and facilities were satisfactory. There were also suitable arrangements for ensuring sterilisation of any instruments, materials and equipment used in skin piercing activities. The requirements of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Skin Piercing Bye Laws 2015 were found to have been fulfilled.

4. General Considerations / Implications

Programmed Inspections

- 4.1 The premises will be inspected routinely to ensure compliance with Council Skin Piercing Bye Laws.

5. Recommendation or Decision

- 5.1 Elected Members are asked to grant approval to register the following business under the Council's Skin Piercing Byelaws:
- (i) Ioana Vararean, Recharge, 11 Holland Park, Ballymena, BT43 6JS - for the practice of acupuncture.



Council/Committee:	Neighbourhoods and Communities
Date:	22 October 24
Report Title:	Leisure Services Performance Year to Date 2024/25
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Patricia Allen, Head of Public Protection, Health & Wellbeing
Approver:	Philip Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an update on Leisure Services performance year to date (YTD) 2024/25.

2. Background

- 2.1. There was £717,000 investment from the Capital Plan Year 2022/23 for the replacement of all gym equipment and each gym had a limited refurbishment across Carrickfergus, Larne and Ballymena leisure centres. The exercise cycles in Ballymena and Carrickfergus were also replaced at that stage.
- 2.2. The largest areas of income in leisure are memberships and the MEAqua Swimming Programme with a total estimated annual income of £1,100,000 for memberships and £460,000 MEAqua Junior Swimming Programme.
- 2.3. Throughout the year there has been a reduced focus on large scale marketing campaigns and more focus on a social network campaign of promotion for leisure centre memberships.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. Direct Debit Membership Income Year 2024/25 up until October

Leisure Centre	Income April 23 – Oct 24	Average Monthly Members
Carrickfergus	£455,853	2223
Larne	£222,146	1109
Ballymena	£101,205	508

- 3.2. Total membership income from April 2023 – to October 2024 is £779,204 with an average total monthly membership of 3,840. This is well on target to exceed the total annual estimate of £1,110,000 for memberships.



- 3.3 Family memberships make up 32% of all memberships and those paying full membership make up 27% of all memberships, see **Appendix 1** attached. Other memberships include Concession, Corporate, Off Peak and swim only.

Total Direct Debit Membership Income All Centres Compared					
Month	Income 24/25	Number of Direct Debits	Month	Income 23/24	DD Numbers
April	£109,413	3789	April	£94,533	3273
May	£109,788	3794	May	£98,481	3399
June	£110,312	3823	June	£100,288	3425
July	£111,189	3846	July	£99,041	3410
August	£112,302	3863	August	£102,710	3522
September	£112,767	3868	September	£102,616	3521
October	£113,432	3903	October	£104,486	3575
November			November	£105,485	3615
December			December	£104,986	3613
January			January	£103,106	3556
February			February	£105,672	3648
March			March	£108,749	3751
Totals	£779,204		Totals	£1,230,159	

- 3.4 Membership has shown steady growth this year (**average monthly increase of 9%**) in both members and income generation compared to last financial year 23/24.

MEAqua Swim Academy – Junior Swimming Lessons

Leisure Centre	Members	Number of Classes
Carrickfergus	870	130
Ballymena	500	95
Larne	650	75
Total	2020	300

- 3.5 The MEAqua Swim Programme continues to show growth across all centres. From April 24 to date, the programme has been developed to include parent and baby sessions in all centres. Disability swimming sessions have also been developed across the sites.
- 3.6 Summer 2023 was the first year the MEAqua programme was extended to include July and August. Traditionally there was a break in July and August and each centre only offered intensive lessons. This continued in summer

2024, as well as intensive lessons, and has proven popular with parents/guardians. Year to Date Period 5 swimming lesson income is detailed below.

Leisure Centre	Income YTD Pd5
Carrickfergus	£93,300
Ballymena	£66,000
Larne	£48,437
Totals	£207,737

- 3.7 MEAqua total income YTD is 28% (£46,000) which is up on estimated budget year to date and on target to exceed annual estimate.

Total Income Period 5 Year to Date

- 3.8 Total budgeted income Year to Date √ Total income is demonstrated below:

Leisure Centre	Budget YTD Pd5	Actual YTD Pd5	%Compared
Carrickfergus	£459,027	£560,445	+22%
Ballymena	£224,711	£284,506	+27%
Larne	£251,790	£313,003	+24%
Totals	£935,528	£1,157,954	+2%

- 3.9 Total income for indoor leisure YTD Period 5 is £1,157,954, an increase of +2% on the estimated budget.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. Amphitheatre, Carrickfergus has by far the largest gym compared to Ballymena and Larne. The opening times are earlier than both Ballymena and Larne, which allows those commuting early access to classes, gym and swim.
- 4.2. Both Ballymena and Larne have a resident swimming club with dedicated pool times across the week. Both clubs have their own Learn to Swim programme that operates during dedicated club time.
- 4.3. Gym competition in Carrickfergus is limited with few private gyms operating in the area, this is similar for Larne. Ballymena has an over saturation of gym facilities, with two national commercial gyms and an increasing number of private operators across the area, including outlying villages.



- 4.4. There are two commercial operators providing learn to swim in the Ballymena area as direct competition to Seven Towers and the MEAqua Programme.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1. Continued investment in MEA leisure centres to ensure facilities and equipment stay current and provide members with value for money.
- 5.2. Continued low level marketing at key times throughout the calendar year.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1. Elected Members are asked to note MEActive Leisure performance year to date.



Council/Committee: Neighbourhoods & Communities

Date: 22 October 2024

Report Title: MEA Automated Emergency Defibrillator Policy

Publication Status: Open

Author: Patricia Allen, Head of Public Protection, Health & Wellbeing

Approver: Philp Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval for a policy to address future procurement and maintenance of Council owned defibrillators, see **Appendix 1** attached.

2. Background

- 2.1. In 2022 an internal working group of Council officers with support from Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) was established with the aim of developing a community resuscitation planning process to facilitate the implementation of the Community Resuscitation Strategy for Northern Ireland within MEA. The strategy is seeking to improve survival rates for those suffering from a sudden cardiac arrest outside of hospital.
- 2.2. The work of this group has been reported to committee on several occasions, most recently in October 2023. Internal research conducted by the working group indicates that responsibility and budget for Council AEDs has never been centralised within any one department of Council and there has been a lack of clear direction on future AED provision in the overall context of health and safety requirements or wider community resuscitation ambitions.
- 2.3. The research has also indicated that the provision, maintenance, monitoring and replacement of AEDs at current levels (approximately 40 devices) results in staff and procurement costs to Council in the region of £40,000 per year.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. By establishing a GIS based register it has been possible to obtain an estimate of the age profile of existing Council devices. Council requires a replacement schedule for life saving devices once they fall outside manufacturers' warranty. Creating a central budget that permits a planned approach to procurement will be one clear benefit from the adoption of this new policy.



- 3.2. Council has also now categorized its devices for the purposes of registration on The Circuit based upon whether they are located internally/externally and if there are any limitations as to when the device would be accessible to members of the public. The policy introduces assessment criteria for decision making relating to procurement which is underpinned by a commitment to increase community 24-hour provision wherever possible.
- 3.3. The total number of devices located across the borough has increased steadily in the past decade. However, the spread of AEDs has not been planned or coordinated by the multiple providers (statutory, business, voluntary and community sectors) leading to confusion and both under and over-provision of devices in some areas. To have an effective community resuscitation approach Council needs to work in a multi-agency partnership model and seek collective agreement for AED provision/replacement decisions as well as considering alternatives such as supporting first responder services within the borough.
- 3.4. Community grant provision for AEDs is outside the scope of the draft policy. Should Council make financial provision in future estimates for such a grant scheme then existing grants policy and process will apply to such schemes, albeit that to ensure consistency and coordination due regard will need to be given to the procurement policy and future multi-agency approaches.
- 3.5. The proposed policy includes Council's intentions regarding promotion and accessibility of AEDs in terms of Circuit registration and support for awareness and training. It also sets out to ensure consistency when it comes to selection of cabinets, visibility of cabinets on-site and the provision of signage and emergency information at AED locations.
- 3.6. The policy establishes a reporting mechanism through the Neighbourhoods & Communities Committee which will be provided with an annual progress update on the topic.
- 3.7. **Appendix 1** provides a draft policy for Elected Members consideration.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. Financial - The annual financial commitment relating to Council owned AEDs is estimated to be in the region of £20,000 for the procurement of parts such as pads /batteries etcetera and for replacement of old-for-new devices/cabinets. This figure is based on the current number of devices remaining at 40 and not increasing. Staff costs associated with monitoring are also in the region of £20,000 per year but they relate to staff already in post. The estimated centralized budget for 2025/26 and annually going forward is therefore £20,000. The Senior Management Team has approved

the recommendation that a central budget of £20,000 is established as part of the 2025/26 estimates process to implement the new policy.

- 4.2. Officers have identified a small number of community devices and cabinets that require urgent in-year replacement. The Senior Management Team has approved a separate budget up to £14,000 to complete this work before the end of the financial year.
- 4.3. The policy document is currently being screened and no particular issues have been identified at this time.

5. Way Forward

- 5.1 Adopting a corporate policy will provide much needed clarity, avoid unnecessary expenditure and establish Council's position in advance of any multi-agency discussions within the Community Planning Framework regarding community resuscitation planning for the borough.
- 5.2 There has been a history of Council accepting donations of AEDs, permitting the transfer of third-party devices to Council and agreeing to locate third party devices in/on Council land/facilities. Most of these decisions have not been subject to legal agreements, which are needed to clearly identify responsibilities for ongoing maintenance and eventual replacement. This is an issue that would benefit from wider partnership discussion and legal research. The proposed MEA policy does not make provision for any new donated or third-party devices; however, the scope of the policy will be subject to review after 12-18 months taking into consideration further research and multi-agency community resuscitation discussions.

6. Recommendation or Decision

Elected Members are asked to –

- 6.1 approve the proposed MEA policy for the provision of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) as presented in **Appendix 1**; and
- 6.2 note that if approved, whilst full implementation of the policy will be from 01 April 2025, there will be a transition period during which officers will progress the new AED budget as part of the 2025/26 rates estimates process, the delivery of the SMT approved replacement programme and will work to ensure all Council devices are fully registered on The Circuit.

7. Appendices / Links

Appendix 1 - Draft MEA Policy for the provision of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)



MEA Policy and Procedures for the Provision & Maintenance of Council- owned Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

Provision & Maintenance of Council-owned Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)	
Review Date	
Related Legislation/ Applicable Section of Legislation	
Related Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Standards, Frameworks	Health and Safety Policy
Replaces	New Policy
Policy Lead (Name/ Position/Contact details)	Head of Public Protection, Health & Wellbeing
Sponsor Directorate	Community
Version	1

Date	Version	Revision Description

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MEA Policy and Procedures for the Provision & Maintenance of Council- owned Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

Introduction

Coronary Heart Disease is the single biggest cause of premature deaths in people younger than 75 across Northern Ireland. (NI Chest Heart & Stroke) and many of these deaths occur without warning and outside of hospital following a sudden cardiac arrest. It is suggested that as many as 1,400 cardiac arrests each year take place outside of hospital.

In the event of a sudden cardiac arrest, defibrillation can help save lives, but to be effective, it should be delivered as part of the chain of survival. There are four stages to the chain of survival, and these should happen in order. When carried out quickly, they can drastically increase the likelihood of a person surviving a sudden cardiac arrest.



They are:

1. Early recognition and call for help. Dial 999 to alert the emergency services. The emergency services operator can stay on the line and advise on giving CPR and using an AED.
2. Early CPR - to create an artificial circulation. Chest compressions push blood around the heart and to vital organs like the brain. If a person is unwilling or unable to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, he or she may still perform compression only CPR.
3. Early defibrillation - an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a computerised device that analyses the heart rhythm and if required delivers a controlled electric shock with the aim of restoring a normal heart rhythm and hence blood and oxygen circulation around the body. Some people experiencing a cardiac arrest will have a 'non-shockable rhythm'. In this case, continuing CPR until the emergency services arrive is paramount.
4. Early post-resuscitation care - to stabilise the patient. Anyone is capable of delivering stages 1 to 3 at the scene of the incident. However, it is important to emphasise that life-saving interventions such as CPR and defibrillation (stages 2 and 3) are only intended to help buy time until the emergency services arrive, which is why dialling 999 is the first step in the chain of survival. Unless the emergency services have been notified promptly, the person will not receive the post-resuscitation care that they need to stabilise their condition and restore their quality of life (stage 4).

Whilst the use of on-site AEDs in public locations has been associated with improved survival rates, statistics suggest that most sudden cardiac arrests will occur in residential areas. The Community Resuscitation Strategy for Northern Ireland, launched in 2014, has been developed with the aim of improving chances of survival for those who suffer an out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest.

Purpose and Scope

Mid and East Antrim Council (Council) is committed to working with partners to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for its population, and to reducing health inequalities. It has developed this policy to support actions within the Community Plan and to take forward implementation of the Community Resuscitation Strategy for Northern Ireland within the borough using a multi-agency partnership approach.

The aims of this policy are:

- To promote national guidance regarding CPR and AEDs that improves awareness of the Chain of Survival, how to locate/access emergency ready AEDs, and that also promotes the uptake of relevant training in order to build resuscitation skills and resilience within communities.
- To provide an evidence-based and sustainable process for determining the provision, maintenance and replacement of AEDs to meet Council's health and safety responsibilities in respect of its own employees and users of its facilities and also for community devices within the ownership of Council.

The policy will apply to Council departments who wish to make a request for an AED to be located within council-owned facilities further to a recommendation arising from a health & safety risk assessment. No other requests for an AED will be considered.

If and when Council decides to approve grant provision for Mid and East Antrim residents seeking financial support from Council to obtain an AED, this policy must be adhered to in addition to the grant criteria as defined at the time.

The policy will be subject to review and Council may restrict its application at any time to on the grounds of affordability.

Accountability and Responsibilities within Council

1. Facilities Maintenance

The Facilities Maintenance Team will act as the lead department for the provision, maintenance and testing of council AEDs and will have budget responsibility for the designated cost centre linked to all equipment procurement and related signage. It will also be responsible for registering devices and maintaining registration information and appropriate records for insurance and other reporting purposes. The GIS Officer will update related databases to assist with forward planning.

Where suitable and sufficient local arrangements already exist or can be put in place to conduct checks and maintain appropriate records, then these must be agreed with the Facilities Manager. Such arrangements may be reviewed at any time.

2. Community Planning & Development

The Grants Team will liaise with the Lead Department to ensure any new grant aided AEDs are GIS logged and to share relevant information to maintain/update the details of other community AEDs on the MEA system.

3. Neighbourhoods & Communities Committee

The Neighbourhoods & Communities Committee will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy and assisting with any review. It will receive an annual report detailing:

- Current number and location of council owned AEDs
- Current number/location of new grant aided "community" AEDs, if applicable
- The status of any current approved community grant programme for provision of either CPR training or AEDs.
- Any adverse incident reports during the period.
- Work progressed to deliver against any Community Resuscitation Strategy action plans being taken forward within MEA.

Establishing Need and Acquisition

Under this policy no AEDs will be purchased (whether new or as a replacement) by Council unless there is a recommendation to do so arising from an up-to-date health & safety risk assessment and thereafter approved criteria are met - see Appendix A. Once approved, purchase and installation should proceed as soon as is reasonably practicable utilising the relevant dedicated annual budget.

As a community resuscitation action plan develops for MEA, this policy will need to be reviewed and revised to take account multi-agency information and arrangements, including identified gaps in AED provision across the borough.

Council will no longer accept donations of third-party devices and will not consider transfer of ownership or guardianship of AEDs to the Council.

Equipment maintenance, use and disposal.

AEDs must be accessible and be maintained in an emergency-ready state. The Facilities Maintenance Team will implement a schedule of regular visual and other checks of council-owned devices and their containers, with both pads and batteries replaced if the device has been used or if they are outside their usable dates.

Devices/containers that are no longer accessible/operational or cannot be repaired will be taken out of operation and disposed of. A planned replacement programme in line with this policy will be developed and implemented.

The AED device itself usually has a warranty period of 6-8 years. Outside of this period, it may not be possible to get a device repaired by the manufacturer. Accordingly, if an AED is found not to work once a new battery has been fitted then it should be removed from service. In any event, Council will not retain a device for more than 2 years outside its warranty period.

Where a council building is removed from the estate all related AEDs will be returned to Facilities Maintenance and assessed for reassignment on the basis of age and any other relevant criteria.

So far as is possible, procurement will ensure consistent and sustainable supply of parts and replacement devices, to ensure timely replacement, improved accessibility and best value.

The purpose of installing an AED is to deliver a shock as soon as possible after a Sudden Cardiac Arrest- if possible, within 5 minutes. The Emergency Services cannot guarantee an immediate response, so it is essential to have people on site who are willing to be trained to perform CPR and to use an AED. Training should be organised and offered to enable participants to gain CPR skills and to operate defibrillators within the parameters of the manufacturer's instruction. Training should be repeated annually, if possible.

Recording Adverse Incidents

The Facilities Maintenance Team will record all reports of

- Theft
- Damage to containers/holders
- Devices not being returned in the event of being needed at an incident off-site
- AED not being in a "ready" state, e.g. pads/other parts missing, dead battery etc,

Council Policy to meet the stated aims

1. Promoting national guidance on CPR and AEDs

It is Council's policy to

- Promote the "Chain of Survival" to its workforce, elected members and in the delivery of all partnership working to implement the Community Resuscitation Strategy and be clear and consistent in its messaging about how to act in the event of a suspected Sudden Cardiac Arrest to avoid confusion and delay in life saving treatment.
- Avail of opportunities to take part in national/regional campaigns, for example SHOCTOBER, and to cascade other related public information that will assist in meeting its aims to improve Sudden Cardiac Arrest survival rates outside of hospital.
- Make training on CPR and AEDs available as part of the induction process for all MEA employees and elected members and provide further training opportunities at regular intervals, including refresher training, thereafter.
- Ensure that conversations and criteria for community grant provision, when applicable, related to AEDs reflect the vital importance of community CPR training and building confidence in individuals to use and maintain their CPR skills.
- Emphasise the need for all AEDs to have a guardian (and where possible more than one) in addition to the requirement to register devices on The Circuit.
- Work in partnership with agencies and communities to offer access to, or when possible financial support for, appropriate awareness and skills training opportunities.

2. Provision and maintenance of Council-owned AEDs.

It is Council policy to

- Maintain an internal GIS map of all council owned devices for planning purposes – access to this information will be restricted and it will not appear on any public site.
- Categorise all Council devices and register them in accordance with this categorisation (see further details in Appendix A).
- Review and update registration details on an annual basis and also as soon as possible after discovering a device is no longer available for use.
- Make decisions on replacement or new council-owned devices in strict accordance with risk-based criteria and agreed annual budget information and after due consideration of wider provision within the locality as part of the Community Planning Community Resuscitation project.
- Ensure consistent procurement to manage budgets efficiently.
- Maintain adequate arrangements for all visual checks and maintenance requirements and all record keeping for legal, insurance and audit purposes.
- Provide Council approved signage adjacent to all council-owned AEDs on how to act in the event of a suspected sudden cardiac arrest.

APPENDIX A - Procedures to implement this policy.

CATEGORISATION AND REGISTRATION OF DEVICES PROVIDED AT COUNCIL-OWNED FACILITIES.

Council operates a wide variety of facilities including those which may be exclusively for its own employees, those with some public access and defined opening times and those provided as community infrastructure across the borough.

As part of its commitment to community resuscitation provision, all council - owned AEDs have been categorised as follows.

CATEGORY A - AEDs that are provided in council owned/operated facilities and intended to be available on a 24/7 basis (external & always accessible). Such devices will be registered on The Circuit as available 24/7.

CATEGORY B - AEDs within a council-owned facility that can be released in the event of an emergency request during all times when the facility is open to the public. Such devices will be registered on The Circuit indicating the restricted availability.

CATEGORY C - AEDs that are provided in council-owned facilities for council employees and the users of those facilities, and which, based on health & safety risk assessment, must remain on site during designated opening times (strictly internal only). Such devices will not be registered on The Circuit.

In a small number of council facilities there may be legitimate reasons for providing different categories of device at the same location.

These categories and the number of devices within each will be reviewed by Council at least annually, to take account of use (linked to proximity of other devices) and adverse incidents.

Registration details will also be reviewed annually and as appropriate updated by Facilities Maintenance.

REQUEST & INSTALLATION PROCESSES

Existing Category C devices located for use by employees and facility users will have been deemed a health & safety requirement and provided the risk assessment does not change such devices will continue to be maintained and as appropriate replaced.

To address increased or unique risks a new (additional) can be requested, backed up by risk assessment. This will usually be in exceptional circumstances and the overall number of devices owned by Council should not increase. On receipt of a completed request form with all supporting documentation, the Facilities Manager will have the final decision on approval and procurement.

The relevant factors to be considered for the location of new devices are:

- 1. What category of device is appropriate for the proposed site?
- 2. Is the proposed site for installation more than 500m from any existing AED available 24/7? Does a new device address a particular gap or evidenced need?
If the answer is No to this question the request will not proceed for approval.
- 3. Is there an accessible power supply? Alternatively, is a battery powered AED suitable for the location? **If the answer is No to this question the cost of obtaining a power supply must be factored into Question 7 below.**
- 4. Are portable devices preferable in this scenario? Does a First Responder Group operate in the locality?
- 5. Will the AED be clearly visible and easily recognisable, i.e. enough light for the device's cabinet to be seen in the dark? **If the answer is No to this question the cost of obtaining additional lighting or relocating the cabinet to make it clearly visible must be factored into Question 7 below.**
- 6. Will the AED need to be secured in a high-quality lockable box to reduce risk of theft or vandalism? **If the answer is Yes to this question the cost of obtaining a suitable cabinet must be factored into Question 7 below.**
- 7. Will budget be available to cover the full purchase and installation costs?
If the answer is No to this question but there is clear need established, then the request can proceed for approval but the procurement and installation of a new device may have to be held over until budget becomes available.

A mutually agreeable location within the site would need to be finalised between the site manager and applicant (if different) before installation takes place. This would need to balance accessibility, footfall and likelihood of vandalism. Agreement should also be reached on the location of Council approved signage adjacent to any device.

The viability of the installation should be reviewed by the Facilities Maintenance Team after 3 months taking into account incidence of vandalism.



Council/Committee:	Neighbourhoods & Communities
Date:	22 October 2024
Report Title:	Play Park Investment Framework Priorities 2025-27
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Lindsay Houston, Parks and Open Space Development Manager
Approver:	Phillip Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members approval of the Play Park Investment Framework 2025 and attached business cases following consultation for priority investment in play parks.

2. Background

- 2.1. Currently, Council maintain 67 play facilities across the borough, see **Appendix 1** attached.
- 2.2. The Play Investment Framework is utilized to prioritize investment and ensure that consultation has been carried to out to enable securing of external funding when opportunities arise.
- 2.3. The Framework is reviewed every 2/3 years as necessary to identify priority play parks for investment. The Framework is developed through workshops with elected members.
- 2.4. This process has been utilised since 2019 and has enabled significant investment in play parks across the borough year on year, see **Appendix 2** attached.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. It is critical that an agreed priority for investment is in place to enable officers to progress investment as required.
- 3.2. The workshops held in September 2024 highlighted key areas for investment. This can be complete refurbishment or partial investment depending on current condition of the play park and need demonstrated.
- 3.3. The Play Investment Framework has been updated to reflect current priorities, see **Appendix 3** attached.



- 3.4. There are a number of priority play parks for investment across the borough. These have been placed in order of priority due to current Health and Safety considerations. The number of sites which will be investment each year will be determined by the capital plan allocation.
- 3.5. Business cases have been attached at **Appendices 4, 5, 6 and 7** to enable progress for investment in 4 priority play parks to be progressed when capital budget is allocated.
- 3.6. It has been highlighted that major costs in terms of play park maintenance are associated with vandalism and anti-social behaviour therefore a protocol in terms of action taken in these cases will be developed.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. Financial implications – £600,000 has been allocated in the capital plan for 2025/6. The agreement of the priorities outlined will enable the consideration of investment over a number of years to achieve the works proposed. The progress through priorities will depend on the allocation of budget through the capital plan however having agreed priorities will also enable officers to progress funding opportunities as they arise.
- 4.2. Assets – it is essential to continue to invest in appropriate sites to provide safe and accessible play provision across the borough. Failure to invest in these sites will result in closure of play facilities in some instances. Continual investment reduces maintenance costs associated
- 4.3. Corporate Plan – provision for children and young people along with investment in our parks and open spaces is highlighted as priority for our residents therefore essential for continued investment.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1. It is proposed that the proposed play park investment framework is approved along with the business cases for the priority sites to enable progress on these sites when budget is allocated or secured.

6. Recommendation or Decision

Elected Members are asked to:

- 6.1 Approve the Play Park Investment Framework 2025; and
- 6.2 Approve the Business Cases attached at Appendices 4 – 7 for Broughshane, Beachlands, Moorfields and Greenisland Play Park investment projects.



7. Appendices / Links

Appendix 1 – Current Play Park Provision

Appendix 2 - Investment in Play Parks to Date

Appendix 3 – Play Park Investment Framework 2025

Appendix 4 – Business Case – Broughshane Play Park Resurfacing

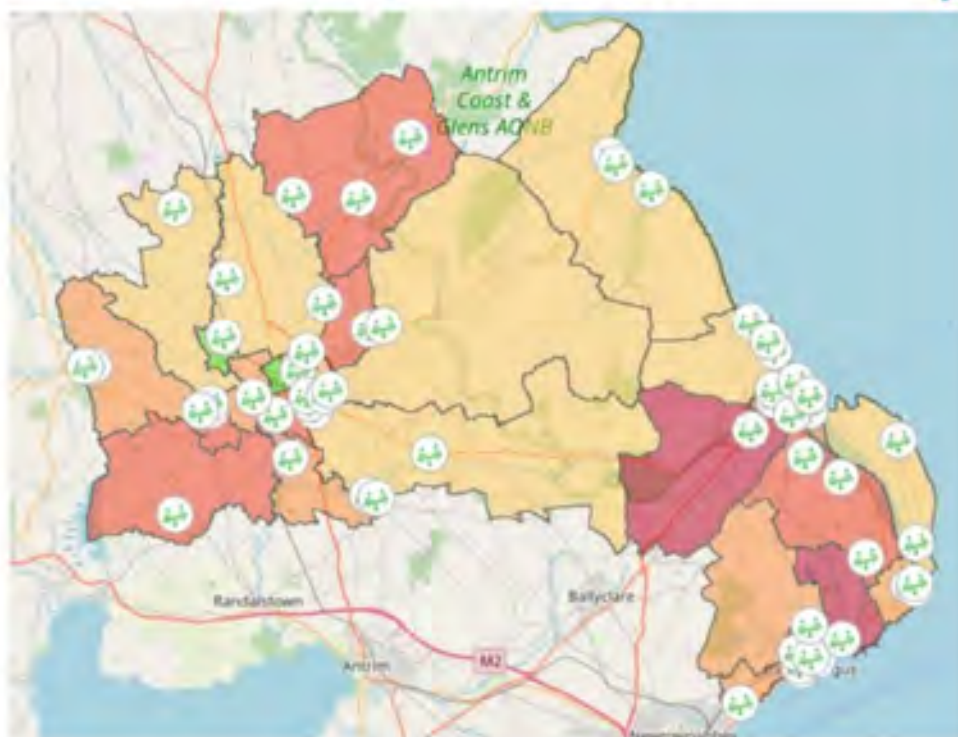
Appendix 5 – Business Case – Beachlands Play Park

Appendix 6 – Business Case – Moorfields Play Park

Appendix 7 – Business Case - Greenisland Play Park

Appendix 1 – Current Play Park Provision

Location of Play Parks MEA



Appendix 2 – Investment in Play Provision to Date

Play Park	Date completed	Area	DEA	total spend	MEA Contribution	External funding	External funding £
Broughshane Play Park	Aug-19	Ballymena	Braid	£148,000.00	£74,000.00	Village Renewal	£74,000.00
Ahoghill Natural Play Park	Oct-20	Ballymena	Bannside	£306,000.00	£153,000.00	Village Renewal	£153,000.00
Tober Park, Cullybackey	Oct-20	Ballymena	Bannside	£353,000.00	£176,500.00	Village Renewal	£176,500.00
Kells Play Park	Mar-21	Ballymena	Braid	£226,000.00	£226,000.00		
Peoples Park Phase II	Mar-21	Ballymena	Ballymena	£369,000.00	£369,000.00		
Millbrook Play Park - replacement unit	Mar-21	Larne	Larne Lough	£32,000.00		Access and inclusion (DFC)	£32,000.00
Ballykeel CC Play Park	May-21	Ballymena	Ballymena	£135,000.00	£135,000.00		
Ballygalley Park	May-21	Larne	Coast Road	£132,000.00	£132,000.00		
Legg Park	Jun-21	Carrickfergus	Carrick Castle	£128,000.00	£128,000.00		
Eden Play Park	Feb-22	Carrickfergus	Carrick Castle	£129,000.00	£129,000.00		
Galgorm Play Park	Jun-22	Ballymena	Bannside	£113,000.00	£113,000.00		
The Grange Play Park	Jul-22	Ballymena	Bannside	£177,000.00	£177,000.00	Ballymena DEA Funded	
Peoples Park Skate Park	Jul-22	Ballymena	Ballymena	£170,000.00	£170,000.00		
Castlemara	Jul-22	Carrickfergus	Carrick Castle	£123,000.00	£123,000.00		
Seacourt Play park - replacement unit	Jul-22	Larne	Coast Road	£24,000.00		Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£24,000.00
Wilson Crescent Play Park	Apr-23	Ballymena	Braid	£130,000.00	£100,000.00	Access and inclusion (DFC)	£30,000.00

Appendix 2 – Investment in Play Provision to Date

Ferris Park	Apr-23	Larne	Coast Road	£130,000.00	£100,000.00	Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£30,000.00
Woodburn Park	Jun-23	Carrickfergus	Knockagh	£130,000.00	£100,000.00	Housing Development Contribution	£30,000.00
Ahoghill Play Park (Main Street)	Jul-23	Ballymena	Bannside	£130,000.00		Small Settlement	£130,000.00
Peoples Park Sensory Experience	Jul-23	Ballymena	Ballymena	£30,000.00		Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£30,000.00
Martinstown Play Park	Jul-23	Ballymena	Braid	£170,000.00		Small Settlement	£170,000.00
Carnfunnock Sensory Experience	Jul-23	Larne	Coast Road	£30,000.00		Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£30,000.00
Clough Play Park	Apr-24	Ballymena	Braid	£150,000.00	£150,000.00		
Portglenone Play Park and Muga	Jun-24	Ballymena	Bannside	£86,000.00		Small Settlement	£86,000.00
Marine gardens	Jun-24	Carrickfergus	Carrick Castle	£457,500.00	£457,500.00		
Ashvale Play park - replacement unit	Jun-24	Larne	Larne Lough	£30,000.00		Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£30,000.00
Larne Skate Park	Sep-24	Larne	Coast Road	£182,500.00	£182,500.00		
			Total	£4,221,000.00	£3,195,500.00		£1,025,500.00

Appendix 2 – Investment in Play Provision to Date

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Completed Investment from 2019 to date

DEA	Total Investment
Ballymena	£704,000
Bannside	£1,165,000
Braid	£824,000
Carrick Castle	£837,500
Coast Road	£498,500
Knockagh	£130,000
Larne Lough	£62,000
Total Investment	£4,221,000

Committed Investment 24/25

DEA – Play Park	Total Investment
Ballymena – Fisherwick	£150,000
Carrick Castle – Oakfield	£180,000
Coast Road – Bardic Drive	£180,000
2025/26	
Coast Road – Carnfunnock Levelling Up	£780,000 (circa)
Coast Road – Bike Park	£400,000 (circa)



Play Park Investment Framework 2025

1. Introduction

Children who have access to enriched play experiences and appropriate play environments have a significantly greater probability of reaching their developmental potential, both intellectual and physical.

Where children experience play deprivation due to many factors including a lack of parental understanding of play, a lack of facilitation of play in communities or in schools/children's services or due to a lack of safe and accessible play space there is a significantly increased possibility of that child presenting poor intellectual development, reduced risk management skills, increased mental health support requirements, reduced potential for socialisation and increased likelihood of anti-social behaviour.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is committed to enhancing opportunities for play for all of its children and young people, regardless of the perceived abilities or their location within the Borough. The 'Out to Play' draft strategy provides a strategic framework for the development of all types of play across the Borough.

In 2019/2020, a Play Park Investment Framework was developed through consultation and workshops with elected members to agree the priorities in each area for investment. This included the development of design principles for all future play park refurbishments and the criteria for progressing new play parks - these principles and criteria will be carried forward.

As required, this framework will be updated, through workshops with elected members to identify future priorities.

2. Key Design Principles

2.1. Standard of Equipment

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Play Safety department provides advice and information on playground management and the safety of indoor and outdoor play areas. RoSPA are a UK Charity and endorse the British and European Standard for playground equipment and surfacing, BS EN 1176.

Playground standards are not retrospective or, currently, a legal requirement, but all existing Council play areas are fully compliant with this standard and are subject to an annual inspection by RoSPA. This not only represents good practice but also helps prevent accidents and assist Council in their defence, in the event of an accident claim.

If an accident arises on piece of play equipment and a consulting engineer inspects it, they will indicate if it complies with BS EN 1176. If the equipment is non-compliant, it increases the likelihood of a finding of liability against Council. It is therefore in Council's interest to install equipment which complies with BS EN 1176.

2.2. Type of Play Equipment

Playing in playgrounds is a lot more than rambunctious fun as kids gain social skills through figuring out how to interact with and share space with other kids.

Various research has shown that playground activities – like spinning, climbing, swinging and sliding – trigger important body systems to develop and function properly. Playground moves build gross and fine motor skills, along with core strength. They enhance the vestibular system – the sensory system that helps with balance and coordination – and develop proprioception, or body awareness.

The main issue in designing playgrounds is to provide challenging and fun activities whilst also providing for the safety of the children using the playground. Play areas should be designed and constructed so that they provide safe play environments and age-appropriate challenges and play experiences for children. This does not mean that the equipment installed in a new play area needs to be top of the range.

In today's market there are numerous manufactures of play equipment and like all equipment there are different brands and varying levels of finish and costs. One of the key considerations is that the play equipment is compliant with the BS EN 1176 standard and offers good value for money in the overall scheme. The other consideration is the location of the play park. Outdoor playground equipment is typically made of wood or metal, and a play park in a rural or natural setting would be better suited to being a wooden play park. A play park in a costal location needs an equipment specification that will ensure the metal can withstand the challenges of the environment.

2.3. Inclusive Play

According to Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child, every child has a right to engage in play. It is a vital part of children's development and a key factor in how they come to understand the world around them. Unfortunately, many children are unable to reap the benefits of play or engage in the activity due to the nature of some of Councils play parks.

Council has 69 play parks and some are over 20 years old and do not currently offer inclusive play opportunities. Council are committed to ensuring all play parks are inclusive and any recent refurbished play parks have been designed to ensure they are inclusive. For example, the use of particular swings which allow a face-to-face experience for simultaneous swinging for both an adult and a child, or Sensory play equipment which are great for children with limited movement to enjoy with their

parent.

Going forward all new or refurbished play parks should be designed to be as inclusive as possible and Destination Parks should have Changing Place Facilities installed. The Mae Murrery Foundation Adapt my Play guide and toolkit will be referenced during the refurbishment of all play parks.

2.4. Safety Surfaces

There is no legal requirement for protective surfacing to be provided on children's playgrounds. However, it is recommended by safety organisations such as RoSPA.

Head injuries to children are reduced in severity by the provision of protective surfaces. The safety surface will not reduce accidents but may reduce the severity of injury from falls to the playground surface.

As a general principle there are three main types of protective surfacing for play areas:

- Grass - A good, all-purpose surface, but with little wear resistance or impact absorbency in dry conditions.
- Loose-fill materials - These include sand, wood products and pea shingle. They have good impact absorbency but disperse and break-down.
- Synthetic surfaces - There are three main types:
 - Tiles - generally efficient, long-lasting but can be expensive;
 - Wet-pour - generally efficient, long-lasting but expensive; and
 - Layered - generally efficient but require some maintenance and can be subject to vandalism and wear problems.

Evidence indicates that recent out-of-court settlements across the UK arising from playground accidents have suggested the courts recognise that the provision of suitable surfaces represents good practice, especially under new equipment.

Safety surfacing is expensive and can consume a large percentage of any play park budget. Some play parks are designed so that the entire surface is covered in a safety surfacing but what would represent greater value for money would be to only install a safety surface under and directly around each piece of play equipment.

When considering which type of safety surfacing to install consideration needs to be given to the location of the play park. For example, a play park in a rural area maybe be suited to a loose fill such as wood chips. The other factor to consider is the initial cost of installation versus the annual maintenance costs and the lifespan of the safety surface.

In terms of the older play parks, it is not necessary to provide a protective surfacing immediately for older equipment and the Investment Strategy provides a

planned programme of improvement.

2.5. Sustainable Procurement

One of the major factors in designing and installing a new play park is the budget for the project. Play parks like any capital project can be designed and constructed separately or they can be procured via a design and build method. There are pros and cons for each method and these need to be weighed up by the capital team when agreeing the way forward.

Procurement of several projects at the one time is likely to result in the most competitive price and would also ensure consistency in the equipment supplied. This is important because equipment supplied by the same manufacturer(s) will facilitate the acquisition of replacement parts.

A detailed equipment specification will be required for all new play parks and in establishing the scoring criteria the following should be included:

- Delivery time frame - a local or UK supplier should be able to deliver the equipment in a shorter timeframe and so allowing the project to complete sooner;
- Availability and cost of replacement parts - a local or UK supplier should be able to provide replacement parts in a quicker timeframe compared to a American supplier;
- Specification meets the BS EN 1176 Standard while also representing the best value for money.

2.6. Categorisation of Play Parks

A three tiered approach to categorising play parks is proposed, with an associated capital budget. Categorising play parks will help ensure a consistent approach across the Borough.

- **Local Play Park (capital spend of circa £120k)**
Small scale play equipment play parks that offer a limited number of play opportunities. Typically, Local Play Areas are located within rural areas, areas of low population density, villages and smaller urban estates. Given their small-scale nature, local play parks serve a catchment area of 600m or less and are targeted primarily at the younger age group (6 years and under).
- **Neighbourhood Play Park (capital spend of circa £180k)**
Neighbourhood Play Parks are equipped play spaces used by the immediate local community and will feature a range of dynamic play equipment such as slides, swings and climbing frames. They offer a range of play opportunities up to the age of 14 years old and serve a catchment area of 1,000m.
- **Destination Play Park (capital spend £400,000 or more)**
Destination Play Parks are visited not only by the local community but by park users from outside the Borough. They provide a much wider range of

play activities to engage in, are located in heavily used open spaces and act as a brand for Council.

Park users identify with these areas for a family day out and are supported by other facilities such as car parking, toilets, café and food facilities and good walking routes, and serve a catchment area of 5,000m or more. Destination Parks should have Changing Place facilities installed to ensure that children of all abilities can enjoy the park.

Table 1: Designation and Investment

Designation	Walking distance to play area	Level of investment
Local	600m	£120,000+
Neighbourhood	1000m	£180,000+
Destination	5000m	£400,000 +

Most play areas in the Borough would be considered Neighbourhood play areas. Categorisation of all play areas/parks in the Borough is set out in Appendix A..

2.7. Rationalisation of Play Parks

Where a play area no longer meets local needs, e.g. through change in demographics or through duplication in provision, the play park should be considered for removal. Community should be involved in any decisions with regard to the rationalisation of play parks in an area.

Rationalisation projects would only be considered when a play park has reached the end of its life and is no longer fit for purpose and it is not safe to open.

2.8. Refurbishment of Play Parks

When reviewing which play parks should be refurbished and when the following points need to be considered:

- Proximity to other play provision;
- What is the status of each park;
- Age of existing equipment;
- Play Value Score (location, measure of engagement and maintenance);
- Have the demographics changed since the parks were initially installed, i.e. how many children are in the area;

2.9. Criteria for a New Play Park

There are areas with more than one play park and there are also areas with no play parks or play areas. Council have 69 play parks and a significant capital budget is required to replace the older play parks as well as an annual revenue

budget to maintain the existing play parks. Therefore, in considering requests for a new play park the following criteria should be assessed:

- Identified local need (demographics and consultation);
- Proximity to other play provision;
- Availability of Council/publicly owned land nearby;
- Safe and easy access for users – good footpaths, greenways etc. so children can walk to the play area;
- Opportunities for partnership working, e.g. by partnering with schools to enable community use of school play facilities;
- Links to tourism and economic development objectives; and
- Preference to be given where new play park would replace two or more existing play areas.

2.10. Maintenance

Regular maintenance and inspection is key to keeping play equipment in good condition, therefore ensuring safety and prolonging the life span of the equipment. Additionally, with ageing play assets, a regular programmed maintenance schedule is essential to ensure that play equipment remains safe and fit for purpose for longer, e.g. through painting, cleaning and repairing damaged safety surfacing.

Accidental damage, wear and tear and acts of vandalism happen throughout the year and a budget is required to enable Council to address these swiftly so as to minimise downtime.

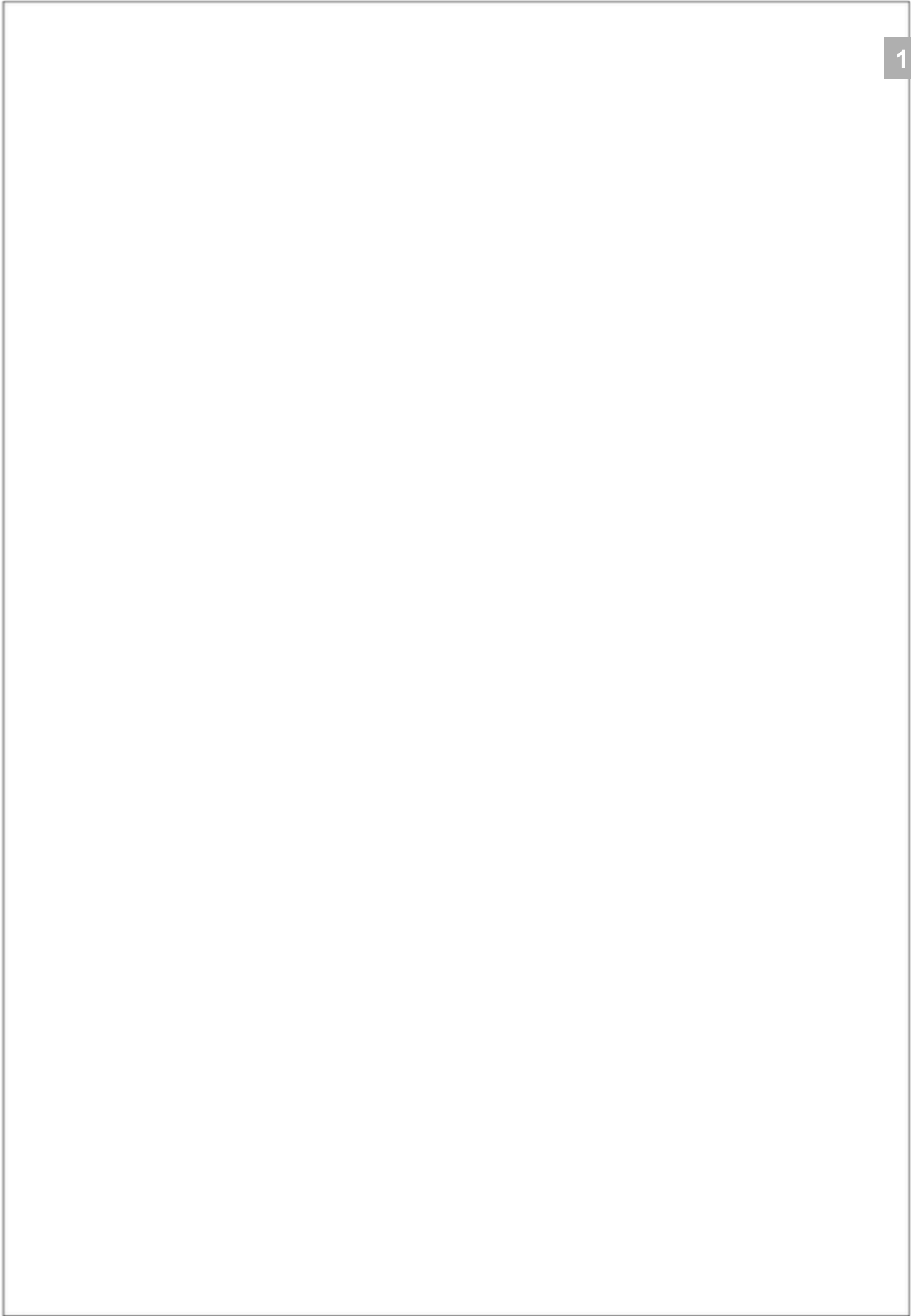
2.11. Inspection

In addition to the external annual inspections the play parks are subject to visual inspections and routine inspections with frequency determined by a risk-based approach. This means that those play areas with greatest footfall and more prone to wear and tear are checked and inspected more frequently by Operations staff and Council's play inspectors. Two play inspectors are employed on a full-time basis covering Mid-Antrim area and East Antrim area respectively with support from other sections including facilities and parks operations. These officers are skilled and share knowledge skills and resources to provide an efficient and cost-effective service.

The majority of play parks remain open year-round. The few that are closed at night are opened and closed by Park wardens or operations staff. Litter picking and bin emptying is also completed by park wardens or operation staff depending on the site.

2.12. External funding for Play Provision

Elected Members are the key drivers in obtaining external funding and where possible, external funding is secured to enhance play provision in the Borough and support capital plan budgets.



3. Investment to Date

Since the development of the play investment strategy and the associated framework in 2019 the following investments have been completed:-

Play Park	Date completed	Area	DEA	total spend	MEA Contribution	External funding	External funding £
Broughshane Play Park	Aug-19	Ballymena	Braid	£148,000.00	£74,000.00	Village Renewal	£74,000.00
Ahoghill Natural Play Park	Oct-20	Ballymena	Bannside	£306,000.00	£153,000.00	Village Renewal	£153,000.00
Tober Park, Cullybackey	Oct-20	Ballymena	Bannside	£353,000.00	£176,500.00	Village Renewal	£176,500.00
Kells Play Park	Mar-21	Ballymena	Braid	£226,000.00	£226,000.00		
Peoples Park Phase II	Mar-21	Ballymena	Ballymena	£369,000.00	£369,000.00		
Millbrook Play Park - replacement unit	Mar-21	Larne	Larne Lough	£32,000.00		Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£32,000.00
Ballykeel CC Play Park	May-21	Ballymena	Ballymena	£135,000.00	£135,000.00		
Ballygalley Park	May-21	Larne	Coast Road	£132,000.00	£132,000.00		
Legg Park	Jun-21	Carrickfergus	Carrick Castle	£128,000.00	£128,000.00		
Eden Play Park	Feb-22	Carrickfergus	Carrick Castle	£129,000.00	£129,000.00		
Galgorm Play Park	Jun-22	Ballymena	Bannside	£113,000.00	£113,000.00		
The Grange Play Park	Jul-22	Ballymena	Bannside	£177,000.00	£177,000.00	Ballymena DEA Funded	
Peoples Park Skate Park	Jul-22	Ballymena	Ballymena	£170,000.00	£170,000.00		
Castlemara	Jul-22	Carrickfergus	Carrick Castle	£123,000.00	£123,000.00		

Seacourt Play park - replacement unit	Jul-22	Larne	Coast Road	£24,000.00		Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£24,000.00
Wilson Crescent Play Park	Apr-23	Ballymena	Braid	£130,000.00	£100,000.00	Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£30,000.00
Ferris Park	Apr-23	Larne	Coast Road	£130,000.00	£100,000.00	Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£30,000.00
Woodburn Park	Jun-23	Carrickfergus	knockagh	£130,000.00	£100,000.00	Housing Development Contribution	£30,000.00
Ahoghill Play Park (Main Street)	Jul-23	Ballymena	Bannside	£130,000.00		Small Settlement	£130,000.00
Peoples Park Sensory Experience	Jul-23	Ballymena	Ballymena	£30,000.00		Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£30,000.00
Marlinstown Play Park	Jul-23	Ballymena	Braid	£170,000.00		Small Settlement	£170,000.00
Camfunnock Sensory Experience	Jul-23	Larne	Coast Road	£30,000.00		Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£30,000.00
Clough Play Park	Apr-24	Ballymena	Braid	£150,000.00	£150,000.00		
Portglenone Play Park and Muga	Jun-24	Ballymena	Bannside	£86,000.00		Small Settlement	£86,000.00
Marine gardens	Jun-24	Carrickfergus	Carrick Castle	£457,500.00	£457,500.00		
Ashvale Play park - replacement unit	Jun-24	Larne	Larne Lough	£30,000.00		Access and Inclusion (DFC)	£30,000.00
Larne Skate Park	Sep-24	Larne	Coast Road	£182,500.00	£182,500.00		
			Total	£4,221,000.00	£3,195,500.00		£1,025,500.00

4. Investment Plan 2024/25 - Committed

Play Park	Anticipated completion	DEA	Budget Allocated
Oakfield Park	Mar-25	Carrick Castle	£180,000.00
Fisherwick – New Play Park	Mar-25	Ballymena	£150,000.00
Bardic Drive	Mar-25	Coast Road	£180,000.00
Carnfunnock Country Park Play Park	Mar-26	Coast Road	£780,000.00

5. Potential sites for investment

Following workshops with elected members in September 2024, the following sites have been prioritised for investment.

Area	Key Investment Areas	Partial Improvements
Ballymena	Moorfields Play Park	Broughshane Surface Improvements
	Cargan Play Park	Extension to Sensory Investment at People's Park
		Ahoghill Nature Park
		Ballykeel - Accessibility
Carrickfergus	Greenisland Play Park	Sunnylands - review need
	Windmill Play Park	
	Carrickfergus Skate Park	
Larne	Beachlands, Carnlough	Southbay - review need
	Curran Road	Whitehead - consultation process required.
	Seacourt	Linn Road (accessible equipment)
		Tullygarley (accessible equipment)

NB - while these sites are currently in order of priority, this may change if funding opportunities arise.

6. Rationalisation

During discussions, it was agreed that when smaller, duplicated play parks reach end of life status, consideration should be given on a case by case basis with regard to the value of further investment. Priority must be given to health and safety of users and therefore when necessary elements of equipment will be removed.

7. Conclusions

The proposals within this Framework aims to see continued investment in a variety of play provision for all abilities and acknowledges the interest in alternative play opportunities eg urban sports provision.

The sites highlighted for potential rationalisation will enable the reduction of the overall number of play parks in the borough and enable resources to be focus on other sites. Any rationalisation projects will be subject to the outcome of consultation processes.

Continued implementation of the design principles outlined would help ensure that a more consistent, measured and sustainable approach would be taken with regards to investment in new Play Parks and Mid and East Antrim.

Appendix A

PLAY PARKS DESIGNATION

The Fields in Trust "Accessibility Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Play", (also known as the Six Acre Standard) has been used across the UK to provide a means of determining the geographical catchment to be served by a play provision based on its size and scope. The Accessibility Benchmark Standard is based around three identified types of play area and establishes a set of distances thresholds which set the catchment area for each "type" of play space.

TYPES OF PLAY	WALKING DISTANCE	STRAIGHT LINE DISTANCE
<p>LAPS - Local Areas for Play. These are specifically designated and laid out for very young children (under 5) with the express purpose of providing somewhere to play close to where they live.</p>	100m	60m
<p>LEAP - Local Equipped Areas for Play. These are areas of open space designated and laid out with features and equipment for children who are beginning to go out and play independently (5 to 12 years) close to where they live.</p>	400m	240m
<p>NEAP - Neighbour Equipped Areas for Play. These are areas of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children (including 12+) but with play opportunities for younger children as well.</p>	1000m	600m

Whilst acknowledging the value of the Fields in Trust Accessibility Benchmark Standard, in establishing a set of distance criteria, there has been a long-standing view across local government that the standards do not naturally translate across to Northern Ireland. This is primarily due to differences in population spread, in particular the largely rural, dispersed nature of settlements and the population base in Northern Ireland. The following designation has been proposed:

PROPOSED MID AND EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAY PROVISION DESIGNATION	RADICAL DISTANCE CRITERIA (M)
<p>LOCAL: Small scale play parks that offer a limited number of play opportunities (ranging from 1 to 4 pieces of play equipment). Typically Local Play Areas are located within rural areas, areas of low population density, villages and smaller urban estates. Given their small scale nature, local play parks serve a catchment area of 600m or less and are targeted primarily at the younger age group (6 years and under).</p>	<p>600m</p>
<p>NEIGHBOURHOOD: Neighbour Play Parks are equipped play spaces used by the immediate local community. A merging of the Field's in Trust definition of "LEAPs" and "NEAPs" will feature a limited range of dynamic play equipment such slides swings and climbing frames. They offer a range of play opportunities up to the age of 14 years old.</p>	<p>1,000m</p>
<p>DESTINATION: Destination Play Parks are visited not only by the local community but by park users from outside the Borough. They provide a much wider range of play activities to engage in, are located in heavily used open spaces and act as a brand for the Council. Park users identify with these areas for a family day out and are supported by other facilities such as car parking, toilets, café and food facilities and good walking routes.</p>	<p>5,000m</p>

Appendix B Play Provision Across Mid and East Antrim

Designation	Park Name	DEA
Destination	The People's Park Play Park	Ballymena
Destination	The People's Park Skate Park	Ballymena
Destination	Marine Gardens Play Park	Carrick Castle
Destination	Carnfunnock Play Park	Coast Road
Destination	Larne Town Skate Park	Larne Lough
Local	Connor Play Park	Braid
Local	Glarryford Play Park	Bannside
Local	Slaght Play Park	Braid
Local	Brookfield Play Park	Bannside
Local	Ballywatermoy Play Park	Braid
Local	Craigwarren Play Park	Braid
Local	Moorfields Play Park	Braid
Local	Amphitheatre Play Park	Carrick Castle
Local	South Bay (Carnlough) Play Park	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	The People's Park Sensory Experience	Ballymena
Neighbourhood	Ballee Play Park	Braid
Neighbourhood	Ballykeel Play Park	Ballymena
Neighbourhood	Ballykeel Sensory Experience	Ballymena
Neighbourhood	Drumtara Play Park	Braid
Neighbourhood	Tullygarley (Ballymena) Play Park	Ballymena
Neighbourhood	Dunclug Play Park	Ballymena
Neighbourhood	Portglenone Marina Play Park	Bannside
Neighbourhood	The Grange (Moorlands) Play Park	Bannside
Neighbourhood	Ahoghill Play Park	Bannside
Neighbourhood	Ahoghill Natural Play Park	Bannside
Neighbourhood	Tober (Cullybackey) Play Park	Bannside
Neighbourhood	Galgorm Play Park	Bannside
Neighbourhood	Smyth Crescent (portglenone) Play Park	Bannside
Neighbourhood	Cargan Play Park	Braid
Neighbourhood	Clough Play Park	Braid
Neighbourhood	Wilson Crescent Play Park	Braid
Neighbourhood	Glenniann (Kells) Play Park	Braid
Neighbourhood	King George V Play Park	Braid
Neighbourhood	Knockan (Broughshane) Play Park	Braid
Neighbourhood	Martinstown Play Park	Braid
Neighbourhood	The Commons (Broughshane) Play Park	Braid
Neighbourhood	Castlemara Play Park	Carrick Castle
Neighbourhood	Eden Play Park	Carrick Castle

Neighbourhood	Legg Park Play Park	Carrick Castle
Neighbourhood	Oakfield Play Park	Carrick Castle
Neighbourhood	Sunnylands Play Park	Carrick Castle
Neighbourhood	Windmill Play Park	Carrick Castle
Neighbourhood	Carrick Skate Park	Carrick Castle
Neighbourhood	Carnfunnock Sensory Experience	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	Ballygalley Play Park	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	Beachlands (Carnlough) Play Park	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	Drains Bay Play Park	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	Glenarm Play Park	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	Greenisland Play Park	Knockagh
Neighbourhood	Woodburn Play Park	Knockagh
Neighbourhood	Ashvale Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Ballycarry Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Bardic Drive Play Park	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	Curran Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Dixon Park Play Park	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	Ferris Play Park	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	Gobbins Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Jubilee (Glynn) Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Linn Road Play Park	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	Magheramorne Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Millbrook Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Seacourt Play Park	Coast Road
Neighbourhood	Town park Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Tullygarley Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Ransevyn Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Whitehead Play Park	Larne Lough
Neighbourhood	Windsor Play Park	Larne Lough

The Business Case Form should be completed in accordance with the associated Business Case Explanatory Sheet.

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Business Case (Spend < £500k)

Description of Item/Project:	Play Investment Framework 2024/25 – Urgent upgrade of Broughshane Park Play
Department:	Parks & Open Spaces (Development)
Directorate:	Community
Is it from Directorate Budget: Y/N	Yes – Capital Plan
Is it from a reserve: Y/N	No
Budget Code:	Capital Projects
Amount allocated to the Project:	£75,000

Is the project linked to another Council service?	No
If 'Yes', has there been engagement with the other service area and agreement on the linkage Y/N	
<i>Comments:</i>	

Name: Lindsay Houston

Date: 15 January 2024

1. The Proposed project

Background

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is committed to enhancing opportunities for play for all of its children and young people, regardless of the perceived abilities or their location within the Borough. The 'Out to Play' Strategy 2020-2024 was agreed in October 2020 and provides a strategic framework for the development of play provision across the borough.

Mid and East Antrim has 67 play areas including sensory play and skate parks, and with around 60% of those aged 15 years and older, it was important to address the quality, maintenance requirements and distribution of assets across the borough.

The development of the Play Investment Framework is carried out in consultation with Elected Members, established the design principles for all future play provision refurbishments, the criteria for progressing new play parks and prioritisation of investment.

Continued review of the Play Investment Framework ensures priorities are identified to take opportunities for funding and to direct capital budget.

Broughshane Play Park has been identified as one of a number of priority parks for partial investment. Given the health and safety issues with regard to this site, budget has been allocated within 2025/26 budgets.

The current surface at this play park is loose safety bark which requires annual maintenance. Due to supply issues, current costs to maintain this surface at circa £5,000 per annum as well as ongoing labour hours throughout the year. In addition, significant issues with this surface, particularly in terms of accessibility, in comparison with other surfaces result in ongoing complaints from service users.

In addition, as the recent refurbishment of this park was a partial refurbishment there are now two pieces of equipment which are now at end of life and need urgent removal and replacement.

It has been identified by play park inspection staff that it would be most cost effective to progress with both resurfacing and replacement equipment under one contract.

Strategic Context

Through the Out to Play Strategy, it is Council's mission is to create child and family friendly play spaces that support everyone in building relationships and learning new skills that will be of benefit to the wider community.

Council's Pledge to the Children and Young People of Mid & East Antrim Borough (EXTRACT ONLY):

Play is essential to children's happiness, health and development. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 gives all children the right "to rest and leisure; to engage in age-appropriate play and recreational activities."

There is increasing evidence however, that children's play opportunities are under threat. Many children and young people do not have the degree of freedom or access to the spaces and environments that they need in order to play. The consequences both for their immediate quality of life and for their long-term health and development are significant.

Council recognises the importance of having communities where there is somewhere safe to go and providing recreational activities for children and young people. We also recognise the role of formal and informal play in building the fabric of communities and increasing young people's skills, confidence and self-esteem. It is because of the importance of play and the threat to children and young people's play that we have decided to develop a Play Strategy for the Borough.

The strategy sets a framework for Council to advocate for children's right to play and identifies priorities for play development in this area. It will look at the play opportunities available to children and young people in the Borough and identifies barriers they face in accessing opportunities for play.

Good play provision protects children through reducing unacceptable levels of danger, while allowing them the opportunity to challenge their own boundaries, learn new skills and use their initiative in a constructive way. At the same time, play enables children to take risks, to think through decisions, manage risk and gain increased self-confidence and greater resilience. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recognises the importance of play in children's lives and for their opportunities to learn about risk. HSE commends the Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide and its sensible approach to the health and safety management of play provision through the application of risk-benefit assessment.

Through our Play Strategy, we are committed to working towards the inclusion of all children within their local communities; regardless of perceived 'ability'.

The right to play is a fundamental human right. Children of all ages and abilities should have opportunities to play freely and confidently, with equal access to equipment and services.

2. How does this project meet the strategic priorities set out in the Corporate Plan?

Mid and East Antrim Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028**Vision**

Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all.

In striving to achieve our vision, the Corporate Plan will be delivered under the 4 key pillars of:-

- People
- Place
- Planet
- Performance.

The continued investment in Play Park provision will deliver within these pillars as follows:-

Place

- Enhance and expand our amenities, parks, open spaces, and built heritage, making sure they meet the needs of all, while encouraging their respectful and mindful use.
- This will be seen by enhanced park and open spaces.

MEABC Community Plan - Putting People First

This overarching document for Community Planning in MEABC for 2017 – 2032 identifies five key themes which also align with the Play park refurbishment benefits:

- 1) Good Health and Wellbeing;
- 2) Sustainable Jobs and Tourism;
- 3) Our Environment;
- 4) Community Safety and Cohesion and
- 5) Progress in Education. These demonstrate the cross cutting nature of the proposal, impacting across a range of sectoral agendas and priorities to improve quality of life for residents of MEABC and visitors alike.

3. Aims and Objectives of the Project**Objective 1**

Provide modern, value for money play facilities to serve residents and visitors.

Objective 2

Provide play facilities suitable for children with a range of needs, incorporating different degrees of risk, which is essential to growth and development; and

Objective 3

Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

4. Alternatives and Impact of proposed project if agreed/not agreed**Has an alternative to proposed project been considered?**

What has been considered?

Alternatively, the Council can continue to maintain this site with annual costs of circa. £5,000 and failure to provide a fully accessible play provision. In addition, due to the current condition of two pieces of equipment, to meet H&S issues, failure to replace these pieces will result in

removal and loss of play value.

What is the impact if the project is not agreed

Failure to agree this project would result in failure to deliver on the proposed Play Investment Framework and children and young people would continue to lack suitable provision in this area.

Impact of project agreed at a reduced budget?

A reduced budget would not enable the project to meet the needs or expectations of the community or meet the agreed priorities within the Play Investment Framework.

5. Costs

Please indicated the proposed costs and the source of budget.

Directorate Budget: - £75,000

Reserves: -

External Funding: -

6. Any internal impact that impacts on budgets

Budget is available within 2024/25 Capital Plan for transformation of play parks. This project would successfully transform Broughshane Play Park.

7. Risks – the risks associated with the project.

Insert details

- Public Relations/Expectations
- Potential environmental impacts
- Securing the required capital costs in an uncertain marketplace
- Maintaining and encouraging appropriate use of the site when completed.
- Non receipt of statutory approvals
- Poor contractor performance
- (Late) Changes to client requirements
- Delay in going out to tender, delaying completion of projects

How are these mitigated?

- Public Relations/Expectations

Officers have carried out initial consultation with stakeholder groups to ascertain expectations and ensure that final facility provides for the demand.

There is an expectation by Elected Members and the public that inadequacies in play provision for young people will be addressed. A failure to do so would lead to dis-satisfaction on their part. Progressing with this project will meet expectations and identified need.

- Potential environmental impacts

Any project that involved construction will have environment impacts. Officers will oversee that these impacts are kept to a minimum.

- Securing the required capital costs in an uncertain marketplace

Funding of any capital project is challenging in current environment however funds have been allocated through the capital plan for this project.

-

- Maintaining and encouraging appropriate use of the site when completed.

Previous experience at other similar facilities have enabled officers to build relationship with user groups through workshops and event creating a community within this facility.

- Non receipt of statutory approvals

Unlikely to be subject to statutory consents as project is deemed under permitted development.

- Poor contractor performance

The appointment of a contracting team who do not have the necessary skills or resources to cope with the scale and type of project anticipated could lead to issues of cost and time over-runs and ultimately a facility unsuitable for its intended use. The use of a 2-stage procurement process, where the first stage assesses the experience, skills, resources and management systems of prospective contractors will reduce the level of risk associated with these issues. Contractor performance will be overseen by the Capital Works section, including representation at site meetings. The contract will be managed in line with our procurement policy with regular contract management meetings.

- (Late) Changes to client requirements

There may be changes to the Clients operational requirements, which could lead to requests for changes to the design. Undertaking a public consultation and early discussions with operational staff would reduce the likelihood of changes being necessary later in the project timeline. Changes to the design which would affect either the cost or timescale would not be permitted once final sign-off had been given prior to tender stage.

- Delay in going out to tender, delaying completion of projects.

Failure to complete procurement processes in a timely fashion could result in delayed completion of project.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation – Separate Form

Who is the project SRO who will monitor progress?

The 'Client' team will be led by the Capital Projects Officer in partnership with the Development Manager, Parks and Open Spaces. Both will be working closely with the public and Elected Members to deliver a quality project. Other staff will be involved, when necessary, particularly during the design development phase and when the project is nearing completion. A detailed Client structure, identifying governance arrangements and accountability roles, will be established at the beginning of the project.

The 'Client Agent' will be appointed via a public procurement process. In conjunction with the Client team, they will be responsible for the development of the design based on the brief issued by Council; preparation of the tender documentation and; supervision of the contractor.

The procurement of the contractor to build the facility will be via a public procurement exercise. This will include an assessment of contractors' previous experience, resources and management systems. During the construction phase the Client team will ensure the facility complies with the design requirements and is built to a satisfactory standard.

Who will complete the project evaluation and when?

Lindsay Houston, Parks Development Manager
March 2025

A Post Project Evaluation exercise will be undertaken 12 months after project completion.

9. Financing and Procurement

(Please include details of the Procurement route to be followed i.e. Tender/DAC/Framework)

Council have approved £75,000 within the capital plan which can deliver urgent health and safety upgrade of Broughshane Play Park.

Tender process

SMT – has SMT been informed of the project (for projects over 30k)

Signatures required: Philip Thompson

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 1. Capital Plan Budget

**Signed: Lindsay Houston
Parks Development Manager**

Date: 10/10/2024

APPROVED:

Signed: Philip Thompson Director of Community

Date: 11/10/2024

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 2. Reserves

Signed: _____ **Director**

Date: _____

APPROVED:

Signed: _____ **Chief Executive**

Date: _____

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy,

IF Resources are from 3. External Funding

Signed: _____ **Director**

Date: _____

APPROVED:

Signed: _____ **Chief Executive**

Date: _____

The Business Case Form should be completed in accordance with the associated Business Case Explanatory Sheet.



Business Case (Spend < £500k)

Description of Item/Project:	Play Investment Framework 2025/26 Beachlands Park Play Refurbishment
Department:	Parks & Open Spaces (Development)
Directorate:	Community
Is it from Directorate Budget: Y/N	Yes – Capital Plan
Is it from a reserve: Y/N	No
Budget Code:	Capital Projects – budget code to be allocated
Amount allocated to the Project:	£180,000

Is the project linked to another Council service?	No
If 'Yes', has there been engagement with the other service area and agreement on the linkage Y/N	
<i>Comments:</i>	

Name: Lindsay Houston

Date: 15 January 2024

1. The Proposed project

Background

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is committed to enhancing opportunities for play for all of its children and young people, regardless of the perceived abilities or their location within the Borough. The 'Out to Play' Strategy 2020-2024 was agreed in October 2020 and provides a strategic framework for the development of play provision across the borough.

Mid and East Antrim has 67 play areas including sensory play and skate parks, and with around 60% of those aged 15 years and older, it was important to address the quality, maintenance requirements and distribution of assets across the borough.

The development of the Play Investment Framework is carried out in consultation with Elected Members, established the design principles for all future play provision refurbishments, the criteria for progressing new play parks and prioritisation of investment.

Continued review of the Play Investment Framework ensures priorities are identified to take opportunities for funding and to direct capital budget.

Beachlands Play Park, Carnlough has been identified as one of 3 priority play parks for refurbishment in 2025/26.

Strategic Context

Through the Out to Play Strategy, it is Council's mission is to create child and family friendly play spaces that support everyone in building relationships and learning new skills that will be of benefit to the wider community.

Council's Pledge to the Children and Young People of Mid & East Antrim Borough (EXTRACT ONLY):

Play is essential to children's happiness, health and development. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 gives all children the right "to rest and leisure; to engage in age-appropriate play and recreational activities."

There is increasing evidence however, that children's play opportunities are under threat. Many children and young people do not have the degree of freedom or access to the spaces and environments that they need in order to play. The consequences both for their immediate quality of life and for their long-term health and development are significant.

Council recognises the importance of having communities where there is somewhere safe to go and providing recreational activities for children and young people. We also recognise the role of formal and informal play in building the fabric of communities and increasing young people's skills, confidence and self-esteem. It is because of the importance of play and the threat to children and young people's play that we have decided to develop a Play Strategy for the Borough.

The strategy sets a framework for Council to advocate for children's right to play and identifies priorities for play development in this area. It will look at the play opportunities available to

children and young people in the Borough and identifies barriers they face in accessing opportunities for play.

Good play provision protects children through reducing unacceptable levels of danger, while allowing them the opportunity to challenge their own boundaries, learn new skills and use their initiative in a constructive way. At the same time, play enables children to take risks, to think through decisions, manage risk and gain increased self-confidence and greater resilience. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recognises the importance of play in children's lives and for their opportunities to learn about risk. HSE commends the *Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide* and its sensible approach to the health and safety management of play provision through the application of risk-benefit assessment.

Through our Play Strategy, we are committed to working towards the inclusion of all children within their local communities; regardless of perceived 'ability'.

The right to play is a fundamental human right. Children of all ages and abilities should have opportunities to play freely and confidently, with equal access to equipment and services.

2. How does this project meet the strategic priorities set out in the Corporate Plan?

Insert details making reference to the Corporate Plan themes and priorities

Mid and East Antrim Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028

Vision

Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all.

In striving to achieve our vision, the Corporate Plan will be delivered under the 4 key pillars of:-

- People
- Place
- Planet
- Performance.

The continued investment in Play Park provision will deliver within these pillars as follows:-

Place

- Enhance and expand our amenities, parks, open spaces, and built heritage, making sure they meet the needs of all, while encouraging their respectful and mindful use.
- This will be seen by enhanced park and open spaces.

In additional

MEABC Community Plan - Putting People First

This overarching document for Community Planning in MEABC for 2017 – 2032 identifies five key themes which also align with the Play park refurbishment benefits:

- 1] Good Health and Wellbeing;
- 2] Sustainable Jobs and Tourism;
- 3] Our Environment;
- 4] Community Safety and Cohesion and

5] Progress in Education. These demonstrate the cross cutting nature of the proposal, impacting across a range of sectoral agendas and priorities to improve quality of life for residents of MEABC and visitors alike.

3. Aims and Objectives of the Project

Objective 1

Provide modern, value for money play facilities to serve residents and visitors.

Objective 2

Provide equipment suitable for children in the age range 2-12 years old;

Objective 3

Provide equipment, including a selection of inclusive pieces, suitable for children with a range of play needs, incorporating different degrees of risk, which is essential to growth and development; and

Objective 4

Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

4. Alternatives and Impact of proposed project if agreed/not agreed

Has an alternative to proposed project been considered?

What has been considered?

The only alternative to this project is to close the play parks to the public for health and safety reasons.

What is the impact if the project is not agreed

Failure to agree this project would result in failure to deliver on the proposed Play Investment Framework and children and young people would continue to lack suitable provision in these areas.

Impact of project agreed at a reduced budget?

A reduced budget would not enable the project to meet the needs or expectations of the community or meet the agreed priorities within the Play Investment Framework.

5. Costs

Please indicated the proposed costs and the source of budget.

Directorate Budget: - £180,000

Reserves: -

External Funding: -

6. Any internal impact that impacts on budgets

Capital Plan is current under development with funds allocated to investment in play parks. Changes in the allocation of budget through the budget plan could result in the review of this project.

7. Risks – the risks associated with the project.

Insert details

- Public Relations/Expectations
- Potential environmental impacts
- Securing the required capital costs in an uncertain marketplace
- Maintaining and encouraging appropriate use of the site when completed.
- Non receipt of statutory approvals
- Poor contractor performance
- (Late) Changes to client requirements
- Delay in going out to tender, delaying completion of projects

How are these mitigated?

- Public Relations/Expectations

Officers have carried out initial consultation with stakeholder groups to ascertain expectations and ensure that final facility provides for the demand.

There is an expectation by Elected Members and the public that inadequacies in play provision for young people will be addressed. A failure to do so would lead to dis-satisfaction on their part. Progressing with this project will meet expectations and identified need.

- Potential environmental impacts

Any project that involved construction will have environment impacts. Officers will oversee that these impacts are kept to a minimum.

- Securing the required capital costs in an uncertain marketplace

Funding of any capital project is challenging in current environment however funds have been allocated through the capital plan for this project.

- Maintaining and encouraging appropriate use of the site when completed.

Previous experience at other similar facilities have enabled officers to build relationship with user groups through workshops and event creating a community within this facility.

- Non receipt of statutory approvals

Unlikely to be subject to statutory consents as project is deemed under permitted development.

- Poor contractor performance

The appointment of a contracting team who do not have the necessary skills or resources to cope with the scale and type of project anticipated could lead to issues of cost and time over-runs and ultimately a facility unsuitable for its intended use. The use of a 2-stage procurement process, where the first stage assesses the experience, skills, resources and management systems of prospective contractors will reduce the level of risk associated with these issues. Contractor performance will be overseen by the Capital Works section, including representation at site meetings. The contract will be managed in line with our procurement policy with regular contract management meetings.

- (Late) Changes to client requirements

There may be changes to the Client's operational requirements, which could lead to requests for changes to the design. Undertaking a public consultation and early discussions with operational staff would reduce the likelihood of changes being necessary later in the project timeline. Changes to the design which would affect either the cost or timescale would not be permitted once final sign-off had been given prior to tender stage.

- Delay in going out to tender, delaying completion of projects.

Failure to complete procurement processes in a timely fashion could result in delayed completion of project.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation – Separate Form

Who is the project SRO who will monitor progress?

The 'Client' team will be led by the Capital Projects Officer in partnership with the Development Manager, Parks and Open Spaces. Both will be working closely with the public and Elected Members to deliver a quality project. Other staff will be involved, when necessary, particularly during the design development phase and when the project is nearing completion. A detailed Client structure, identifying governance arrangements and accountability roles, will be established at the beginning of the project.

The 'Client Agent' will be appointed via a public procurement process. In conjunction with the Client team, they will be responsible for the development of the design based on the brief issued by Council; preparation of the tender documentation and; supervision of the contractor.

The procurement of the contractor to build the facility will be via a public procurement exercise. This will include an assessment of contractors' previous experience, resources and management systems. During the construction phase the Client team will ensure the facility complies with the design requirements and is built to a satisfactory standard.

Who will complete the project evaluation and when?

Lindsay Houston, Parks Development Manager
March 2026

A Post Project Evaluation exercise will be undertaken 12 months after project completion.

9. Financing and Procurement

(Please include details of the Procurement route to be followed i.e. Tender/ DAC/Framework)

Council have approved £180,000 within the capital plan which can deliver investment in the refurbishment of Carnlough Play Park.

Tender process

[Empty rectangular box]

SMT - has SMT been informed of the project (for projects over 30k)

Signatures required: Philip Thompson

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 1. Capital Plan

**Signed: Lindsay Houston
Parks Development Manager**

Date: 10/10/2024

APPROVED:

Signed: Philip Thompson Director of Community

Date: 11/10/2024

APPROVED:

Signed: Valerie Watts Chief Executive

Date: 16/11/2024

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 2. Reserves

Signed: _____ Director

Date: _____

APPROVED:

Signed: _____ Chief Executive

Date: _____

=====

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 3. External Funding

Signed: _____ Director

Date:

APPROVED

Signed: _____ Chief Executive

Date:

The Business Case Form should be completed in accordance with the associated Business Case Explanatory Sheet.

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Business Case (Spend < £500k)

Description of Item/Project:	Play Investment Framework 2025/26 Moorfields Park Play Refurbishment
Department:	Parks & Open Spaces (Development)
Directorate:	Community
Is it from Directorate Budget: Y/N	Yes – Capital Plan
Is it from a reserve: Y/N	No
Budget Code:	Capital Projects – budget code to be allocated
Amount allocated to the Project:	£180,000

Is the project linked to another Council service?	No
If 'Yes', has there been engagement with the other service area and agreement on the linkage Y/N	
<i>Comments:</i>	

Name: Lindsay Houston

Date: 15 January 2024

1. The Proposed project

Background

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is committed to enhancing opportunities for play for all of its children and young people, regardless of the perceived abilities or their location within the Borough. The 'Out to Play' Strategy 2020-2024 was agreed in October 2020 and provides a strategic framework for the development of play provision across the borough.

Mid and East Antrim has 67 play areas including sensory play and skate parks, and with around 60% of those aged 15 years and older, it was important to address the quality, maintenance requirements and distribution of assets across the borough.

The development of the Play Investment Framework is carried out in consultation with Elected Members, established the design principles for all future play provision refurbishments, the criteria for progressing new play parks and prioritisation of investment.

Continued review of the Play Investment Framework ensures priorities are identified to take opportunities for funding and to direct capital budget.

Moorfields Play Park has been identified as one of 3 priority play parks for refurbishment in 2025/26.

Strategic Context

Through the Out to Play Strategy, it is Council's mission is to create child and family friendly play spaces that support everyone in building relationships and learning new skills that will be of benefit to the wider community.

Council's Pledge to the Children and Young People of Mid & East Antrim Borough (EXTRACT ONLY):

Play is essential to children's happiness, health and development. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 gives all children the right "to rest and leisure; to engage in age-appropriate play and recreational activities."

There is increasing evidence however, that children's play opportunities are under threat. Many children and young people do not have the degree of freedom or access to the spaces and environments that they need in order to play. The consequences both for their immediate quality of life and for their long-term health and development are significant.

Council recognises the importance of having communities where there is somewhere safe to go and providing recreational activities for children and young people. We also recognise the role of formal and informal play in building the fabric of communities and increasing young people's skills, confidence and self-esteem. It is because of the importance of play and the threat to children and young people's play that we have decided to develop a Play Strategy for the Borough.

The strategy sets a framework for Council to advocate for children's right to play and identifies priorities for play development in this area. It will look at the play opportunities available to

children and young people in the Borough and identifies barriers they face in accessing opportunities for play.

Good play provision protects children through reducing unacceptable levels of danger, while allowing them the opportunity to challenge their own boundaries, learn new skills and use their initiative in a constructive way. At the same time, play enables children to take risks, to think through decisions, manage risk and gain increased self-confidence and greater resilience. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recognises the importance of play in children's lives and for their opportunities to learn about risk. HSE commends the *Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide* and its sensible approach to the health and safety management of play provision through the application of risk-benefit assessment.

Through our Play Strategy, we are committed to working towards the inclusion of all children within their local communities; regardless of perceived 'ability'.

The right to play is a fundamental human right. Children of all ages and abilities should have opportunities to play freely and confidently, with equal access to equipment and services.

2. How does this project meet the strategic priorities set out in the Corporate Plan?

Insert details making reference to the Corporate Plan themes and priorities

Mid and East Antrim Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028

Vision

Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all.

In striving to achieve our vision, the Corporate Plan will be delivered under the 4 key pillars of:-

- People
- Place
- Planet
- Performance.

The continued investment in Play Park provision will deliver within these pillars as follows:-

Place

- Enhance and expand our amenities, parks, open spaces, and built heritage, making sure they meet the needs of all, while encouraging their respectful and mindful use.
- This will be seen by enhanced park and open spaces.

In additional

MEABC Community Plan - Putting People First

This overarching document for Community Planning in MEABC for 2017 – 2032 identifies five key themes which also align with the Play park refurbishment benefits:

- 1] Good Health and Wellbeing;
- 2] Sustainable Jobs and Tourism;
- 3] Our Environment;
- 4] Community Safety and Cohesion and

5] Progress in Education. These demonstrate the cross cutting nature of the proposal, impacting across a range of sectoral agendas and priorities to improve quality of life for residents of MEABC and visitors alike.

3. Aims and Objectives of the Project

Objective 1

Provide modern, value for money play facilities to serve residents and visitors.

Objective 2

Provide equipment suitable for children in the age range 2-12 years old;

Objective 3

Provide equipment, including a selection of inclusive pieces, suitable for children with a range of play needs, incorporating different degrees of risk, which is essential to growth and development; and

Objective 4

Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

4. Alternatives and Impact of proposed project if agreed/not agreed

Has an alternative to proposed project been considered?

What has been considered?

The only alternative to this project is to close the play parks to the public for health and safety reasons.

What is the impact if the project is not agreed

Failure to agree this project would result in failure to deliver on the proposed Play Investment Framework and children and young people would continue to lack suitable provision in these areas.

Impact of project agreed at a reduced budget?

A reduced budget would not enable the project to meet the needs or expectations of the community or meet the agreed priorities within the Play Investment Framework.

5. Costs

Please indicated the proposed costs and the source of budget.

Directorate Budget: - £180,000

Reserves: -

External Funding: -

6. Any internal impact that impacts on budgets

Capital Plan is current under development with funds allocated to investment in play parks. Changes in the allocation of budget through the budget plan could result in the review of this project.

7. Risks – the risks associated with the project.

Insert details

- Public Relations/Expectations
- Potential environmental impacts
- Securing the required capital costs in an uncertain marketplace
- Maintaining and encouraging appropriate use of the site when completed.
- Non receipt of statutory approvals
- Poor contractor performance
- (Late) Changes to client requirements
- Delay in going out to tender, delaying completion of projects

How are these mitigated?

- Public Relations/Expectations

Officers have carried out initial consultation with stakeholder groups to ascertain expectations and ensure that final facility provides for the demand.

There is an expectation by Elected Members and the public that inadequacies in play provision for young people will be addressed. A failure to do so would lead to dis-satisfaction on their part. Progressing with this project will meet expectations and identified need.

- Potential environmental impacts

Any project that involved construction will have environment impacts. Officers will oversee that these impacts are kept to a minimum.

- Securing the required capital costs in an uncertain marketplace

Funding of any capital project is challenging in current environment however funds have been allocated through the capital plan for this project.

- Maintaining and encouraging appropriate use of the site when completed.

Previous experience at other similar facilities have enabled officers to build relationship with user groups through workshops and event creating a community within this facility.

- Non receipt of statutory approvals

Unlikely to be subject to statutory consents as project is deemed under permitted development.

- Poor contractor performance

The appointment of a contracting team who do not have the necessary skills or resources to cope with the scale and type of project anticipated could lead to issues of cost and time over-runs and ultimately a facility unsuitable for its intended use. The use of a 2-stage procurement process, where the first stage assesses the experience, skills, resources and management systems of prospective contractors will reduce the level of risk associated with these issues. Contractor performance will be overseen by the Capital Works section, including representation at site meetings. The contract will be managed in line with our procurement policy with regular contract management meetings.

- (Late) Changes to client requirements

There may be changes to the Client's operational requirements, which could lead to requests for changes to the design. Undertaking a public consultation and early discussions with operational staff would reduce the likelihood of changes being necessary later in the project timeline. Changes to the design which would affect either the cost or timescale would not be permitted once final sign-off had been given prior to tender stage.

- Delay in going out to tender, delaying completion of projects.

Failure to complete procurement processes in a timely fashion could result in delayed completion of project.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation – Separate Form

Who is the project SRO who will monitor progress?

The 'Client' team will be led by the Capital Projects Officer in partnership with the Development Manager, Parks and Open Spaces. Both will be working closely with the public and Elected Members to deliver a quality project. Other staff will be involved, when necessary, particularly during the design development phase and when the project is nearing completion. A detailed Client structure, identifying governance arrangements and accountability roles, will be established at the beginning of the project.

The 'Client Agent' will be appointed via a public procurement process. In conjunction with the Client team, they will be responsible for the development of the design based on the brief issued by Council; preparation of the tender documentation and; supervision of the contractor.

The procurement of the contractor to build the facility will be via a public procurement exercise. This will include an assessment of contractors' previous experience, resources and management systems. During the construction phase the Client team will ensure the facility complies with the design requirements and is built to a satisfactory standard.

Who will complete the project evaluation and when?

Lindsay Houston, Parks Development Manager
March 2026

A Post Project Evaluation exercise will be undertaken 12 months after project completion.

9. Financing and Procurement

*(Please include details of the Procurement route to be followed i.e. Tender/
DAC/Framework)*

Council have approved £180,000 within the capital plan which can deliver investment in the refurbishment of Moorfields Play Park.

Tender process

SMT – has SMT been informed of the project (for projects over 30k)

Signatures required: Philip Thompson 16/10/2024

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 1. Capital Plan

Signed: Lindsay Houston
Parks Development Manager

Date: 10/10/2024

APPROVED:

Signed: Philip Thompson Director of Community

Date: 11/10/2024

APPROVED:

Signed: Valerie Watts Chief Executive

Date: 16/11/2024

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 2. Reserves

Signed: _____ Director

Date: _____

APPROVED:

Signed: _____ Chief Executive

Date: _____

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 3. External Funding

Signed: _____ Director

Date:

APPROVED

Signed: _____ Chief Executive

Date:

The Business Case Form should be completed in accordance with the associated Business Case Explanatory Sheet.

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Business Case (Spend < £500k)

Description of Item/Project:	Play Investment Framework 2025/26 Greenisland Park Play Refurbishment
Department:	Parks & Open Spaces (Development)
Directorate:	Community
Is it from Directorate Budget: Y/N	Yes – Capital Plan
Is it from a reserve: Y/N	No
Budget Code:	Capital Projects – budget code to be allocated
Amount allocated to the Project:	£180,000

Is the project linked to another Council service?	No
If 'Yes', has there been engagement with the other service area and agreement on the linkage Y/N	
<i>Comments:</i>	

Name: Lindsay Houston

Date: 15 January 2024

1. The Proposed project

Background

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is committed to enhancing opportunities for play for all of its children and young people, regardless of the perceived abilities or their location within the Borough. The 'Out to Play' Strategy 2020-2024 was agreed in October 2020 and provides a strategic framework for the development of play provision across the borough.

Mid and East Antrim has 67 play areas including sensory play and skate parks, and with around 60% of those aged 15 years and older, it was important to address the quality, maintenance requirements and distribution of assets across the borough.

The development of the Play Investment Framework is carried out in consultation with Elected Members, established the design principles for all future play provision refurbishments, the criteria for progressing new play parks and prioritisation of investment.

Continued review of the Play Investment Framework ensures priorities are identified to take opportunities for funding and to direct capital budget.

Greenisland Play Park has been identified as one of 3 priority play parks for refurbishment in 2025/26.

Strategic Context

Through the Out to Play Strategy, it is Council's mission is to create child and family friendly play spaces that support everyone in building relationships and learning new skills that will be of benefit to the wider community.

Council's Pledge to the Children and Young People of Mid & East Antrim Borough (EXTRACT ONLY):

Play is essential to children's happiness, health and development. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 gives all children the right "to rest and leisure; to engage in age-appropriate play and recreational activities."

There is increasing evidence however, that children's play opportunities are under threat. Many children and young people do not have the degree of freedom or access to the spaces and environments that they need in order to play. The consequences both for their immediate quality of life and for their long-term health and development are significant.

Council recognises the importance of having communities where there is somewhere safe to go and providing recreational activities for children and young people. We also recognise the role of formal and informal play in building the fabric of communities and increasing young people's skills, confidence and self-esteem. It is because of the importance of play and the threat to children and young people's play that we have decided to develop a Play Strategy for the Borough.

The strategy sets a framework for Council to advocate for children's right to play and identifies priorities for play development in this area. It will look at the play opportunities available to

children and young people in the Borough and identifies barriers they face in accessing opportunities for play.

Good play provision protects children through reducing unacceptable levels of danger, while allowing them the opportunity to challenge their own boundaries, learn new skills and use their initiative in a constructive way. At the same time, play enables children to take risks, to think through decisions, manage risk and gain increased self-confidence and greater resilience. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recognises the importance of play in children's lives and for their opportunities to learn about risk. HSE commends the *Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide* and its sensible approach to the health and safety management of play provision through the application of risk-benefit assessment.

Through our Play Strategy, we are committed to working towards the inclusion of all children within their local communities; regardless of perceived 'ability'.

The right to play is a fundamental human right. Children of all ages and abilities should have opportunities to play freely and confidently, with equal access to equipment and services.

2. How does this project meet the strategic priorities set out in the Corporate Plan?

Insert details making reference to the Corporate Plan themes and priorities

Mid and East Antrim Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028

Vision

Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all.

In striving to achieve our vision, the Corporate Plan will be delivered under the 4 key pillars of:-

- People
- Place
- Planet
- Performance.

The continued investment in Play Park provision will deliver within these pillars as follows:-

Place

- Enhance and expand our amenities, parks, open spaces, and built heritage, making sure they meet the needs of all, while encouraging their respectful and mindful use.
- This will be seen by enhanced park and open spaces.

In additional

MEABC Community Plan - Putting People First

This overarching document for Community Planning in MEABC for 2017 – 2032 identifies five key themes which also align with the Play park refurbishment benefits:

- 1] Good Health and Wellbeing;
- 2] Sustainable Jobs and Tourism;
- 3] Our Environment;
- 4] Community Safety and Cohesion and

5] Progress in Education. These demonstrate the cross cutting nature of the proposal, impacting across a range of sectoral agendas and priorities to improve quality of life for residents of MEABC and visitors alike.

3. Aims and Objectives of the Project

Objective 1

Provide modern, value for money play facilities to serve residents and visitors.

Objective 2

Provide equipment suitable for children in the age range 2-12 years old;

Objective 3

Provide equipment, including a selection of inclusive pieces, suitable for children with a range of play needs, incorporating different degrees of risk, which is essential to growth and development; and

Objective 4

Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

4. Alternatives and Impact of proposed project if agreed/not agreed

Has an alternative to proposed project been considered?

What has been considered?

The only alternative to this project is to close the play parks to the public for health and safety reasons.

What is the impact if the project is not agreed

Failure to agree this project would result in failure to deliver on the proposed Play Investment Framework and children and young people would continue to lack suitable provision in these areas.

Impact of project agreed at a reduced budget?

A reduced budget would not enable the project to meet the needs or expectations of the community or meet the agreed priorities within the Play Investment Framework.

5. Costs

Please indicated the proposed costs and the source of budget.

Directorate Budget: - £180,000

Reserves: -

External Funding: -

6. Any internal impact that impacts on budgets

Capital Plan is current under development with funds allocated to investment in play parks. Changes in the allocation of budget through the budget plan could result in the review of this project.

7. Risks – the risks associated with the project.

Insert details

- Public Relations/Expectations
- Potential environmental impacts
- Securing the required capital costs in an uncertain marketplace
- Maintaining and encouraging appropriate use of the site when completed.
- Non receipt of statutory approvals
- Poor contractor performance
- (Late) Changes to client requirements
- Delay in going out to tender, delaying completion of projects

How are these mitigated?

- Public Relations/Expectations

Officers have carried out initial consultation with stakeholder groups to ascertain expectations and ensure that final facility provides for the demand.

There is an expectation by Elected Members and the public that inadequacies in play provision for young people will be addressed. A failure to do so would lead to dis-satisfaction on their part. Progressing with this project will meet expectations and identified need.

- Potential environmental impacts

Any project that involved construction will have environment impacts. Officers will oversee that these impacts are kept to a minimum.

- Securing the required capital costs in an uncertain marketplace

Funding of any capital project is challenging in current environment however funds have been allocated through the capital plan for this project.

- Maintaining and encouraging appropriate use of the site when completed.

Previous experience at other similar facilities have enabled officers to build relationship with user groups through workshops and event creating a community within this facility.

- Non receipt of statutory approvals

Unlikely to be subject to statutory consents as project is deemed under permitted development.

- Poor contractor performance

The appointment of a contracting team who do not have the necessary skills or resources to cope with the scale and type of project anticipated could lead to issues of cost and time over-runs and ultimately a facility unsuitable for its intended use. The use of a 2-stage procurement process, where the first stage assesses the experience, skills, resources and management systems of prospective contractors will reduce the level of risk associated with these issues. Contractor performance will be overseen by the Capital Works section, including representation at site meetings. The contract will be managed in line with our procurement policy with regular contract management meetings.

- (Late) Changes to client requirements

There may be changes to the Client's operational requirements, which could lead to requests for changes to the design. Undertaking a public consultation and early discussions with operational staff would reduce the likelihood of changes being necessary later in the project timeline. Changes to the design which would affect either the cost or timescale would not be permitted once final sign-off had been given prior to tender stage.

- Delay in going out to tender, delaying completion of projects.

Failure to complete procurement processes in a timely fashion could result in delayed completion of project.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation – Separate Form

Who is the project SRO who will monitor progress?

The 'Client' team will be led by the Capital Projects Officer in partnership with the Development Manager, Parks and Open Spaces. Both will be working closely with the public and Elected Members to deliver a quality project. Other staff will be involved, when necessary, particularly during the design development phase and when the project is nearing completion. A detailed Client structure, identifying governance arrangements and accountability roles, will be established at the beginning of the project.

The 'Client Agent' will be appointed via a public procurement process. In conjunction with the Client team, they will be responsible for the development of the design based on the brief issued by Council; preparation of the tender documentation and; supervision of the contractor.

The procurement of the contractor to build the facility will be via a public procurement exercise. This will include an assessment of contractors' previous experience, resources and management systems. During the construction phase the Client team will ensure the facility complies with the design requirements and is built to a satisfactory standard.

Who will complete the project evaluation and when?

Lindsay Houston, Parks Development Manager
March 2026

A Post Project Evaluation exercise will be undertaken 12 months after project completion.

9. Financing and Procurement

*(Please include details of the Procurement route to be followed i.e. Tender/
DAC/Framework)*

Council have approved £180,000 within the capital plan which can deliver investment in the refurbishment of Greenisland Play Park.

Tender process

SMT – has SMT been informed of the project (for projects over 30k)

Signatures required: Philip Thompson 16/10/2024

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 1. Capital Plan

Signed: Lindsay Houston
Parks Development Manager

Date: 10/10/2024

APPROVED:

Signed: Philip Thompson Director of Community

Date: 11/10/2024

APPROVED:

Signed: Valerie Watts Chief Executive

Date: 16/11/2024

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 2. Reserves

Signed: _____ Director

Date: _____

APPROVED:

Signed: _____ Chief Executive

Date: _____

I confirm I have followed the MEA Procurement Policy.

If Resources are from 3. External Funding

Signed: _____ Director

Date:

APPROVED

Signed: _____ Chief Executive

Date:



Council/Committee:	Neighbourhoods and Communities
Date:	22 October 2024
Report Title:	Parks Development Events Review 2024
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Lindsay Houston, Parks and Open Space Development Manager
Approver:	Phillip Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the Parks Development Event programme 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Parks and Open Spaces Development Team are responsible for the delivery of a wide range of functions to enhance parks and open spaces including:-
 - Developing proposals, securing funding and delivery of projects
 - Management and enhancement of principal parks
 - Management of weekly markets
 - Investigation of Public Right of Way queries
 - Promotion and delivery of opportunities for outdoor recreation
 - Development of play
 - Sustainable development and biodiversity
 - Allotments
 - Volunteering and support of local groups

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. The Parks Development Team provides a wide range of events throughout the year, see **Appendix 1** attached. The team are highly skilled, enabling many of these events to be facilitated internally, creating a real term saving for the Council. Sponsorship and partnership working has also enabled many of these events to be of minimal cost to the Council.
- 3.2. To date, for 2024/25 the team have provided 103 events involving 4761 participants with a budget of circa. £6,000. This minimal budget required is due to the expertise of staff members enabling the majority of these events have been facilitated by staff members or in partnership with other organisations.



Some examples of key events include:-

- 3.3 **Portglenone Bluebell Festival** took place on 27th April led by Outdoor Recreation Team. This is in partnership with Portglenone Enterprise Group. 600 people attended the event, taking part in activities, walks and play all centered around the forest and the wonderful Bluebells. One attendee posted on their social media "Sometimes we grumble about our council rates but when MEA Outside put days on like this then it's worth a few pounds a year in my opinion. Would love to see more of this throughout our Council area."
- 3.4 **Healthy Oceans, Healthy Minds Campaign** - this is an annual celebration, held in summer, which showcases Northern Ireland's captivating blue spaces and highlights the mental health benefits of engaging with our coastal and inland waterways.
- 3.5 Healthy Oceans Healthy Minds is more than just a campaign; it's a movement that brings people together to enjoy and preserve the incredible blue spaces of Northern Ireland. Whether it's paddleboarding, practicing beach yoga, or participating in educational talks, the campaign invites everyone to dive in and experience the rejuvenating effects of water on your well-being.
- 3.6 **Dementia Friendly Fridays** - Nature Walks and Talks for those living with Dementia and their carers. A chance to connect with those who 'just get it' while immersed in our green spaces.
- 3.7 **Finding Your Feet** - Six weeks of connection with nature and each other for mothers and babies (under 6 months) - walking and wellbeing including a session with registered dietician to discuss weaning. On programme completion each mum was presented with a FYF pack to continue on their journey which included items to encourage continued use of outdoor spaces as a family. Harryville Men's shed provided the catering through their community fridge programme.
- 3.8 **Walk this Way May** - Month long celebration of Natural Walking Month with opportunities to join free walks across the borough.
- 3.9 **Biodiversity University** - The Parks Development Team hosted three weeks of outdoor activities to inspire the Borough's young residents to discover more about the incredible species and habitats on their doorstep and how to help these through varied fun and environmental activities in Diamond Jubilee Wood Whitehead, Town Park, Larne and Ecos Nature Park, Ballymena.
- 3.10 **Love Parks Week** - Love Parks week is a national celebration of parks and open spaces from 27th July – 4th August. Activities to promote our local



parks and open spaces included Rock pooling, DIY Bird Boxes, Orienteering, Art in the Park, Bushcraft and Rocket Making. Events were held across the borough.

- 3.11 **Carnfunnock Country Park** - This site offers the ideal location for key family events through the year. Example this year include:-
- Easter Egg Trail
 - Easter Petting Farm
 - Early May Bank Holiday Events - Alice in Wonderland Trail
 - Late May Bank Holiday – Alice in Wonderland Trail
 - Love Parks Events
- 3.12 **Review** - To ensure ongoing quality of experience for participants a review is carried out after each event and feedback is sought. This is important to ensure ongoing quality of our events, see **Appendix 2** attached.
- 3.13 **Communications** - A key part of the success of the events program is promotion. MEAOutdoors is a social media channel used on a number of platforms to promote the positive work in our parks and open spaces. This promotional effort is managed by the Outdoor Recreation Assistant with support from the team. **Appendix 3** attached outlines the reach achieved across Facebook, Instagram and Tiktok. 71% of our surveyed programme participants said they follow MEA Outdoors on social media and of those who did follow, 85% felt more connected to our Parks and Open Spaces through the channels.

4 General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1 **Financial Implications** – The functions of the Development Team are developed through Council's revenue and capital plan budget and where possible, supplemented by funding from external sources. The team is made up of experienced and skilled individuals resulting in enabling many of the events to be run in house with limited external costs.
- 4.2 **Good Relations** – the Development Team's function is to serve the needs of local residents, ensuring inclusion for all. Development proposals involve extensive engagement with service users and other key stakeholders.
- 4.3 **Corporate Plan** – the events facilitated by the Development Team are cross-cutting and directly link to community and Corporate Plan objectives.
- 4.4 **Rural Proofing** – the development team ensures delivery of events to support and empower all local communities.



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Antrim**
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- 4.5 Environmental Impact – the work of the team is to enhance the environment and to minimize the environmental impact of our activities. The team delivers elements of the Council Climate Action Plan.

5 Recommendation or Decision

- 5.1 Elected Members are asked to note the Parks Development Team Event Programme for 2024.

6 Appendices / Links

- Appendix 1 – Events and Participant Numbers
- Appendix 2 – Overview and Feedback
- Appendix 3 – Social Media Review

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Quarter 1 – April 2024 – July 2024

No.	Event	Date	Location	Participant Numbers
1	Easter at Carnfunnock	01/04/2024	CCP	846
2	Easter at Carnfunnock	02/04/2024	CCP	834
3	Native Hedge Planting	03/04/2024	Greenisland Allotments	4
4	Schools Growing Club Season 1 - Seaview IPS	08/04/2024	Glenarm	25
5	Growing Club Session 1 Cairncastle PS -	08/04/2024	Ballygally	25
6	Fossil and Geology Walk	09/04/2024	Larne Promenade	24
7	Finding Your Feet Final Session	12/04/2024	Ecos	17
8	Friends of Bashfordsland Litter pick (Big Spring Clean)	13/04/2024	Carrickfergus, Bashfordsland Wood & Oakfield Glen	9
9	Growing Club Session 1 Harryville PS	16/4/24	Ballymena	25
10	ECO Day Camphill PS Ballymena	26/4/24	Ballymena	180
11	Bluebell Festival	27/04/2024	Portglenone	600
12	Growing Club Session 2 Seaview IPS	29/04/2024	Glenarm	25
13	Growing Club Session 2 Cairncastle PS	29/04/2024	Ballygally	25
14	Growing Club Session 2 Harryville PS	30/04/2024	Ballymena	25
15	May Meander	05/01/2024	Glenarm forest	3
16	Dusk Chorus	05/03/2024	Diamond Jubilee Wood	25
17	Buggy Babies 1	05/06/2024	Carrickfergus	11
18	Tree ID Workshop	05/09/2024	Bashfordsland	6
19	Move More Celebration Event	05/10/2024	Ecos	22
20	Friends of Bashfordsland Wood Woodland Maintenance	05/11/2024	Carrickfergus, Bashfordsland Wood & Oakfield Glen	10
21	Toddler Toddle 1	05/12/2024	Cullybackey	12
22	Buggy Babies 2	13/05/2024	Carrickfergus	6
23	Growing Club Session 3 Seaview IPS	13/05/2024	Glenarm	25
24	Growing Club Session 3 Cairncastle PS	13/05/2024	Ballygally	25
25	Growing Club Session 3 Harryville PS	14/05/2024	Ballymena	25
26	The Story of the Seven Towers	16/5	Ballymena	16
27	Knockdhu Hike	18/5	Knockdhu	12
28	Toddler Toddle 2	19/5	Carrick Mill Ponds	2
29	Buggy Babies 3	20/05/2024	Carrickfergus	3
30	Macmillan Move More	24/05/2024	Ballymena	1
31	Cleantech Collaborative Growth Network	24/5/24	Ecos	18
32	Carnfunnock by Foot	22/5/24	Carnfunnock	16
33	Woman's Safety	25/05/2024	Carrickfergus	10
34	Toddler Toddle 3	26/05/2024	Ballygally	25
35	Buggy Babies 4	27/05/2024	Carrickfergus	3
36	Pawsitive Walk	28/05/2024	Larne Promenade	1

Appendix 1

37	Macmillan Move More	28/05/2024	Larne	1
38	Macmillan Move More	31/05/2024	Ballymena	1
39	Cargan and Newtowncrommelin anniversary events	08/06/2024	Newtowncrommelin	20
40	Cargan and Newtowncrommelin anniversary events	09/06/2024	Newtowncrommelin	20
41	Cargan and Newtowncrommelin anniversary events	08/06/2024	Drum Wood	8
42	Growing Club Session 4 Seaview IPS	06/05/2024	Glenarm	25
43	Growing Club Session 4 Cairncastle PS	06/05/2024	Ballygally	25
44	Friends of Bashfordsland Wood - Woodland Maintenance	06/08/2024	Bashfordsland	8
45	Growing Club Session 4 Harryville PS	06/11/2024	Ballymena	25
46	Taking Notice Public Workshop - Field Studies Ireland	21/06/2024	CCP	11
47	Taking Notice Staff Workshop - Field Studies Ireland	21/06/2024	CCP	13
48	Drowning Prevention Week - Open Water Swim Talk	22/06/2024	Ballygally Beach	5
49	Drowning Prevention Week - Rookie Lifeguard Beach Training	22/06/2024	Ballygally Beach	11
50	Drowning Prevention Week - SUP/Kayak Talk	22/06/2024	Ballygally Beach	6
51	Drowning Prevention Week - Bystander Simple Rescue Training	22/06/2024	Ballygally Beach	8
52	Bird Box making with Girl Guides.	05/08/2024	Cullybackey	13
53	Glenravel Shelter Building	28/06/24	Martinstown	10
54	Easter Egg Trail & Easter Creations	31 Mar & 01 Apr 2024	Carnfunnock Country Park	1212
55	Easter Petting Farm	02/04/2024	Carnfunnock Country Park	660
56	Alice in Wonderland Trail	05-06 & 27 May 2024	Carnfunnock Country Park	660
			Total Attendees	3151
			Total Events	56

Quarter 2 – July 2024 – September 2024

No	Event	Date	Location	Participant Numbers
1	Art in the Park	31/07/24	Shaftsbury	8

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2	Biodiversity University Diamond Jubilee Wood	29/07/24	Whitehead	50
3	Biodiversity University Diamond Jubilee Wood	30/07/24	Whitehead	50
4	Biodiversity University Diamond Jubilee Wood	31/07/24	Whitehead	50
5	Biodiversity University Diamond Jubilee Wood	01/08/24	Whitehead	50
6	Biodiversity University Diamond Jubilee Wood	02/08/24	Whitehead	50
7	Love parks week Bat Night	31/07/24	Whitehead	60
8	LPW Geology Tour	01/08/24	Larne	25
9	LPW Seabirds and Sealife	02/08/24	Islandmagee	18
10	Wild Survival Skills	03/08/24	ECOS	25
11	Biodiversity University ECOS	04/08/24	Ballymena	60
12	Biodiversity University ECOS	05/08/24	Ballymena	60
13	Biodiversity University ECOS	06/08/24	Ballymena	60
14	Biodiversity University ECOS	07/08/24	Ballymena	60
15	Biodiversity University ECOS	08/08/24	Ballymena	60
16	Friends of Bashfordsland Wood & Oakfield Glen	10/08/24	Carrickfergus	12
17	Biodiversity University Larne	12/08/24	Larne	60
18	Biodiversity University Larne	13/08/24	Larne	50
19	Biodiversity University Larne	14/08/24	Larne	50
20	Biodiversity University Larne	15/08/24	Larne	20
21	Biodiversity University Larne	16/08/24	Larne	50
22	Bat Walk International Bat Night	23/08/24	Cullybackey, Galgorm Wood	70
23	Friends of Bashfordsland Wood & Oakfield Glen	14/09/24	Carrickfergus	10
24	Orienteering 1	27/07/24	Peoples Park	73
25	Orienteering 2	31/07/24	Bashfordsland Wood	21
26	Orienteering 3	01/08/24	Carnfunnock CP	19
27	Beach Babbies 1	15/08/24	Ballygally Beach	15
28	Beach Babbies 2	22/08/24	Ballygally Beach	33
29	Rockpooling	18/08/24	Carnfunnock Bay	51
30	Nature Walks and Talks 1	16/08/24	Peoples Park	3
31	Nature Walks and Talks 2	23/08/24	Peoples Park	4
32	Wild Womens Circle	23/08/24	Browns Bay	16
33	Beach Babbies 3	29/08/24	Ballygally Beach	43
34	Nature Walks and Talks 3	30/08/24	Peoples Park	4
35	Pollution Art	31/08/24	Ballygally Beach	35
36	Community Sand Art	31/08/24	Ballygally Beach	50
37	Whale and Seabird Watch	06/09/24	Portmuck Harbour	50
38	No Dig Workshop	13/09/24	Eden Allotments	25
39	Finding Your Feet Larne 1	03/09/24	Dixon Park	16
40	Finding Your Feet Larne 2	17/09/24	Dixon Park	22

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41	Art in the Park	30/07/24	Carnfunnock Country Park	23
42	Curious Kids Experiments	01/08/24	Carnfunnock Country Park	15
43	DIY Bird Box Building	28/07/24	Carnfunnock Country Park	11
44	Rock Pooling	27/07/24	Carnfunnock Country Park	15
45	Kids Rocking Rockets	03/08/24	Carnfunnock Country Park	19
46	Farmwatch Stand	23/08/24	Ballymena Livestock Mart.	25
47	Apple trees at Victoria PS	16/09/24	Victoria P.S. Carrick.	14
			Total Attendees	1610
			Total Events	47

Outdoor Recreation Update - April 2024 September 2024

OR Led Events and Activities

APRIL Events/Activities: 2 - TOTAL PARTICIPATION: 617	
<p>Finding Your Feet</p> <p>(Started in Feb, this was the final session)</p> <p>Partnership: MEA Loneliness Network and Harryville Men's Shed</p> <p>12th April</p> <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-top: 10px;">Engaged: 17</div>	<p>6 weeks of connection with nature and each other for mothers and babies (under 6 months) - walking and wellbeing including a session with registered dietician to discuss weaning. On programme completion each mum was presented with a FYF pack to continue on their journey which included items to encourage continued use of outdoor spaces as a family.</p> <p>Harryville Men's shed provided the catering through their community fridge programme.</p>
<p>Finding Your Feet Participant Feedback</p> <p>100% said the programme was well organised. 100% said they were 'extremely satisfied' with the programme.</p> <p>As a result of Finding Your Feet: 83% mums said they visited green spaces more often 83% said they had fun 100% said they met like-minded mums 100% said they left the house more with their baby 100% said they felt less alone</p> <p>When asked what they liked most about 'Finding Your Feet' here are some of the responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being able to get out of the house more and getting more confident in connecting with other mums. • It was really relaxed, Juls was so welcoming and friendly which made it so much easier to join something new as a first-time mum. • The other mums. • Walks & chatting to other mums 	
<p>Portglenone Bluebell Festival</p> <p>Partnership: Ulster Wildlife, RSPB, Community Rescue Service, NI Orienteering, Portglenone Enterprise Group</p> <p>27th April</p> <div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-top: 10px;">Engaged: 600</div>	<p>Celebration to welcome the annual floral spectacle of the Portglenone Bluebells,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushcraft • Orienteering • Facepainting • Guided Walks • Yoga • Planting • Pop Up Play • Information Stands from Ulster Wildlife, RSPB and Community Rescue • Live Music

MAY	
Events/Activities: 27 - TOTAL PARTICIPATION: 193	
<p>Walk This Way May</p> <p><i>Partnerships: Macmillan Move More, PSNI</i></p> <p>May Day Meander: 3 <i>Glenarm</i></p> <p>Story of the Seven Towers: 16 <i>Ballymena Town Centre</i></p> <p>Tree ID: 6 <i>Bashfordsland</i></p> <p>Dusk Chorus Walk: 25 <i>Diamond Jubilee Wood</i></p> <p>Knockdhu Hike: 12 <i>Knockdhu</i></p> <p>Carnfunnock By Foot: 16 <i>Carnfunnock</i></p> <p>Women's Walk: 10 <i>Carrickfergus</i></p> <p>Toddler Toddles (3): 39 <i>Culleybackey, Carrick Mill Ponds, Ballygally</i></p> <p>Buggy Babies (4): 23 <i>Carrickfergus</i></p> <p>Macmillan Move More Walks (9): 39 <i>Ecos and Larne Promenade</i></p> <p>Pawsitive Walks (4): 4 <i>Larne Promenade</i></p>	<p>Month long celebration of National Walking Month with opportunities to join FREE walks across the Borough.</p> <p>Full Report Attached</p> <p>Micro Case Study: Buggy Babies</p> <p>During Walk this Way May, Buggy Babies never really had a chance to shine due to lots of rain. The greatest success of the linked sessions turned out to be the WhatsApp Group. This was a place for mothers to connect between walks.</p> <p>Our final guided walk took place on the last Monday in May, on our last session there were 12 parents in the WhatsApp group.</p> <p>Today, there are 30!</p> <p>The group has not missed a single Monday through June, July and August and will hopefully continue to go from strength to strength with more parents added each week. One mother has even attended the PHA Walk Leader course to lead the group.</p>
Engaged: 193	
Walk This Way May Participant Feedback	
<p>100% of respondents said walks were well advertised 82% said they were extremely satisfied with the walks</p> <p>When asked what they liked most about Walk This Way May, here are some of the responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free, enthusiastic leader, very welcoming, great times • Informative + friendly staff who encouraged others and fostered a friendly, non-intimidating atmosphere • Getting outdoors and exploring local area • Very friendly, great fun and informative • Keep up the good work. The MEA events that have been organised recently are the best we've had in the borough. 	

JUNE Events/Activities: 8 - TOTAL PARTICIPATION: 94	
<p>Fire and Furnace Festival</p> <p><i>Partnership: Tenth Glen Heritage Farm</i> 8th and 9th June</p> <p style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">Engaged: 40</p>	<p>Supporting the Festival through provision of Play Equipment and 1 member of staff at this community organised festival.</p>
<p>Taking Notice</p> <p><i>Partnership: Field Studies Ireland</i> 21st June</p> <p>Public: 11 Staff: 13</p> <p style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">Engaged: 24</p>	<p>Nature Wellbeing through Outdoor Education</p> <p>'Taking Notice' is a nature wellbeing initiative, designed to support a connection to local nature through place-based learning and outdoor education.</p> <p>The 'Taking Notice' concept has been designed to complement the NI Public Health Agency 'Take 5' literature, of which one of the steps is to 'Take notice'.</p>
<p>Taking Notice Feedback</p> <p><i>On Completion of the Workshop:</i></p> <p>100% of participants said they have new skills to use 63% said they will implement the workshop in their role 100% said they felt inspired to slow down and take notice</p> <p><i>When asked what they liked most about taking notice, here are some of the responses:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It was a really cool way to engage with people and with nature, it was "easy" and natural. I also learned lots of new things and tricks to encourage others to be in the space and be mindful.</i> • <i>Having a chance to step outside and slow down, whilst also learning something new and making connections with nature and other people. More please!!</i> • <i>Learning new ways to engage people</i> 	
<p>Water Safety Week</p> <p><i>Partnership: RLSS AND RNLI</i> Saturday 22nd June</p> <p>Open Water Swim Talk: 5 Rookie Lifeguard Training: 11 SUP/Kayak Talk: 6 Simple Bystander Rescue Training: 8</p> <p style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px;">Engaged: 30</p>	<p>DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK</p> <p>Accidental drownings are preventable with the right water safety education. To mark this important week, we partnered with RNLI and RLSS to bring this information, training and learning to the sand.</p>

<p>Water Safety Week Feedback</p> <p>100% of respondents came away feeling more confident in using their local blue spaces</p> <p>When asked what they liked most about the sessions, here are some of the responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands on/interactive training e.g. Using Safety Items • The experience of the instructors • Very Informative, professional but relaxed • Engaging

<p>JULY</p> <p>Events/Activities: 3 - TOTAL PARTICIPATION: 113</p>	
<p>Love Parks Week Orienteering Partnership: NI Orienteering Association</p> <p>Peoples Park: 73 Bashfordsland Wood: 21 Carnfunnock Country Park: 19</p> <p>Engaged: 113</p>	<p>Orienteering Challenge – participants used the maps to find their way around a marked route. 2 courses on offer at each location to suit various abilities.</p>

<p>AUGUST</p> <p>Events/Activities: 10 - TOTAL PARTICIPATION: 254</p>	
<p>Healthy Oceans Healthy Minds Partnership: Live Here Love Here</p> <p>15th Beach Babbies 1: 15 18th Rockpool Safari: 51 22nd Beach Babbies 2: 33 23rd Wild Women's Circle: 16 29th Beach Babbies 3: 43 31st Pollution Art: 35 31st Community Sand Art: 50</p> <p>Engaged: 243</p>	<p>Healthy Oceans Healthy Minds is an annual celebration, held in summer, which showcases Northern Ireland's captivating blue spaces and highlights the mental health benefits of engaging with our coastal and inland waterways. Healthy Oceans Healthy Minds is more than just a campaign; it's a movement that brings people together to enjoy and preserve the incredible blue spaces of Northern Ireland. Whether it's paddleboarding, practicing beach yoga, or participating in educational talks, the campaign invites everyone to dive in and experience the rejuvenating effects of water on your well-being.</p>
<p>Healthy Oceans Healthy Minds Feedback</p> <p>100% of respondents said the events were well organised</p> <p>When asked what they liked most about the sessions, here are some of the responses:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That despite the awful weather everyone just got on and enjoyed themselves - largely down to the enthusiasm of the facilitators/organisers. • Although it was a horrible wet day the event still went ahead and was so much fun. Thank you to the organiser for not being afraid of getting wet and mucky when so many others would have cancelled. • Sense of community and getting outdoors • The social interaction and free play on the beach • Connecting and just enjoying the beautiful outdoor natural space. 	
<p>Dementia Friendly Fridays <i>Partnership: Alzheimer's Society</i> Peoples Park Ballymena</p> <p>16th - 3 23rd - 4 30th - 4</p> <p>Engaged: 11</p>	<p>Nature Walks and Talks for those living with Dementia and their carers. A chance to connect with those who 'just get it' while immersed in our green spaces.</p> <p><u>Quote from participant</u> <i>"These mornings have been special to us; we would never think to just wonder slowly around the park and look at the leaves and trees ordinarily and it's something we will definitely do more of"</i></p>

Total Engaged from March – August 24: 1271

Total Events Activities: 50

Total Events/Activities OR led/delivered in partnership: 43

Total Events delivered by external facilitator (fully funded): 3

Total Events/ Activities delivered by external facilitator from our budget: 4

<p>Staff Training</p> <p>5 staff trained as Take 5 Ambassadors through the PHA to deliver 5 Steps to Wellbeing Workshop alongside our programmes.</p>
<p>Current Programmes</p> <p>Finding Your Feet – Second round of Funding secured from MEA Loneliness Network to run FYF in Dixon Park, Larne. Currently there are 30 people registered (15 babies!)</p>
<p>Programmes in Planning</p> <p>Grandparents Pop Up Play – In celebration of Positive Ageing month we will be hosting 3 Pop Up Play sessions for Grandparents who mind children during the day, utilising our parks and open spaces.</p> <p>We are working with Department for the Economy NI on the Multiply NI Programme to enhance the numeracy skills of the adult population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Family Fundays with Numeracy Focus • Hill Skills Programme for Adults 40+ (with no Math's GCSE) • Orienteering programme for Adults 19+ (with no Math's GCSE)

Social Media Update: Facebook

Reach: 66,150 (no paid ads)

Content Interactions: 3,750

Reach breakdown

1 Apr - 5 Sep

Total

66,150 ↑ 476.2%

From organic

66,150 ↑ 476.2%

From ads

0 0%

Interactions breakdown

1 Apr - 5 Sep

Total

3,750 ↑ 306.3%

From followers

1,529 ↑ 322.4%

From non-followers

2,221 ↑ 295.9%

Published content

Based on up to 200 pieces of content

+250.7% vs 26 Oct 2023 - 31 Mar 2024

Photos

152

Stories

44

Reels

35

Videos

5

Links

5

Facebook reach

+476.2% vs 26 Oct 2023 - 31 Mar 2024

Photos

50,629

Multi-photo

27,393

Links

9,612

Others

6,025

Reels

3,488

Text

1,111

Content interactions

+306.3% vs 26 Oct 2023 - 31 Mar 2024

Photos

2,252

Multi-photo

665

Reels

562

Links

175

Stories

48

Others

117

Followers

3 mos

1,076

Age & gender

40%

30%

20%

10%

0%

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

Women 151% Men 143%

Top towns/cities

Larne

29.8%

Ballymena

25.7%

Castlerock

13.5%

Ballyclare

4.9%

Newtownabbey

3.8%

Top countries

United Kingdom

99.2%

Ireland

0.2%

Kazakhstan

0.2%

Australia

0.1%

Bosnia and Herzegovina

0.1%

Social Media Update: Instagram

Reach: 11,676 (no paid ads)

Content Interactions: 3,750

Reach breakdown

Total
11,676 ↑ 343.3%

From organic
11,676 ↑ 343.3%

From ads
0 0%

Content interactions ⓘ

1.7K ↑ 282.1%

Published content ⓘ

Based on up to 200 pieces of content

+57.1% vs 26 Oct 2023 - 31 Mar 2024

Stories



Posts

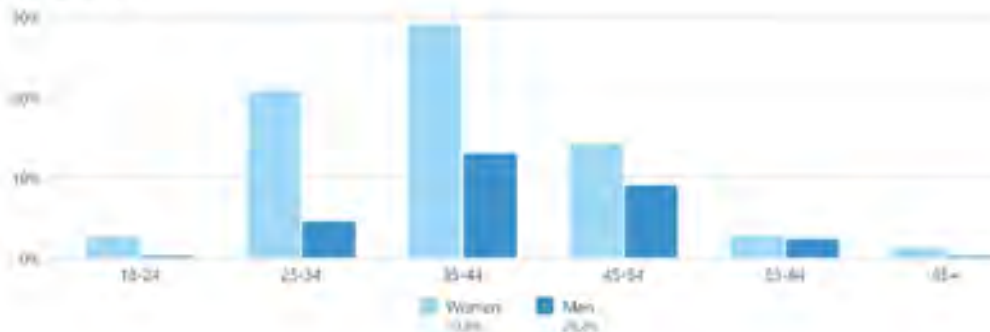


Followers ⓘ

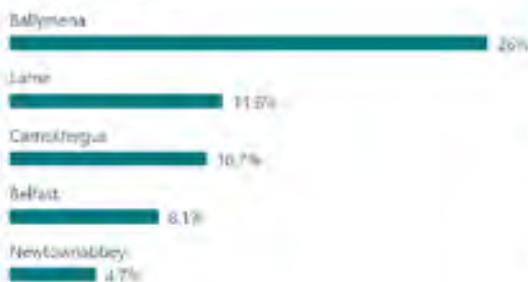
Following

534

Age & gender ⓘ



Top towns/cities



Top countries



Social Media Update: Tiktok

Key metrics

Mar 31 - Sep 4

Post views

17K

+4,752 (+56.6%)

Profile views

78

+5 (+6%)

Likes

112

+97 (+46.5%)

Comments

8

+5 (+166.7%)

Shares

7

+5 (+250%)



Key metrics

Mar 31 - Sep 4

Total followers

77

All time

Net followers

43

+9 (+26.5%)



Viewer insights

Gender Age Locations



- Male 34%
- Female 66%
- Other 0%

Key metrics

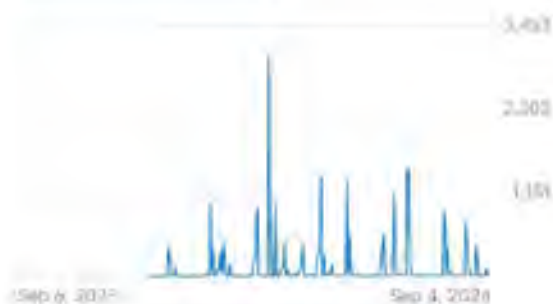
Sep 6, 2023 - Sep 4, 2024

Total viewers

25K

New viewers

22K



71% of our surveyed programme participants said they follow MEA Outdoors on social media.

Of those who followed, 85% said they felt more connected to our Parks and Open Spaces Events and Activities through the channels.



Council/Committee:	Neighbourhoods and Communities
Date:	24 October 2024
Report Title:	Bonfires & Cultural Celebrations Programme 2024 Update
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Catherine Black, Acting Head of Community Planning & Development
Approver:	Philip Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the Bonfires and Cultural Celebrations Programme 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1 Reports on bonfire management issues have been brought before Council throughout the course of 2023, in March 2024 and most recently in July 2024.
- 2.2 At the March Council meeting the following was agreed;
 1. *Council has never consented to unauthorised activity on its land, and formally confirms it does not regulate or give permission for any unauthorised activity on Council owned land or in Council property.*
 2. *Council recognises that throughout the world bonfires are a longstanding element of cultural celebration. Locally, they are an important part of identity, tradition and cultural expression. In the event communities seek to proceed with a bonfire on Council owned land, Council, to mitigate risk, will engage with local communities, seeking to manage and reduce risk through initiatives such as the Cultural Celebrations Grants Scheme and the Beacon program, thereby promoting and encouraging safer cultural celebrations wherever possible.*
 3. *Council commissions a brief yet intensive consultation process to examine best practice in managing cultural and bonfire celebrations. Engaging all relevant stakeholders, especially local communities, community groups and organisers involved in such events. This consultation aims to inform the Council's approach to cultural and*



bonfire celebrations calling for a two month consultation with all stakeholders.

4. *Officers will liaise with community representatives to prepare and develop a Community Engagement Protocol, and this will be brought back to Council for approval.*
5. *Council will continue to undertake risk assessments for staff pursuant to its health and safety at work duty.*

2.3 At the July Council meeting respect to the report on Cultural Celebrations Consultation – Direct Award Contract it was approved that

1. *the award of a Direct Award Contract to the ACT Initiative to undertake intensive consultation and develop a community engagement protocol in relation to cultural celebrations;*
2. *that the consultation would be limited to Option 3 (bonfires on Council owned land).*

2.4 This report provides an update on the activity and processes across the 2024 period and an update on the agreed actions from the July Council meeting.

3 Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 In general, the 2024 bonfire season was characterised by strong working relationships between all partners and notable successes including the surrendering and appropriate disposal of tyres from a number of bonfire sites, and the introduction of a beacon at the Glynn site. Over 1000 tyres were removed from the bonfire site at Millbrook and tyres were also removed at Galgorm in Ballymena.
- 3.2 Craigyhill bonfire and associated events continue to present a number of challenges for Council and partners which will requires further discussion and collaboration from all involved.
- 3.3 Below is a summary of the number of bonfire/beacon sites across the borough, including detail on the ownership of each site.
- 3.4 The full detail of sites including addresses and coordinates can be found in **Appendix 1** attached.



BONFIRES				
Ownership	Carrickfergus	Ballymena	Larne	
Council	1	5	6	12
NIHE	4	2	0	6
Other / Private	2	3	2	7
	7	10	8	25

BEACONS				
Ownership	Carrickfergus	Ballymena	Larne	
Council	0	2	3	5
NIHE	0	4	1	5
Other / Private	0	0	0	0
	0	6	4	10

The 2024 Beacon Programme

- 3.5 In 2024 Council planned and prepared for the delivery of ten beacons across the borough. At the last minute, the Wakehurst Beacon was not deployed and therefore nine beacons were lit and burned.
- 3.6 Note that Doury Road and Wakehurst sites use "Ballymena" beacons which were engineered by Council a number of years ago, the remaining sites are supplied through a contract with Groundwork NI.
- 3.7 The beacon programme has numerous benefits, they provide a safe and environmentally clean alternative to bonfires. The Groundwork beacons are five metres in height, a steel structure which is pre-filled with carbon neutral willow wood and stands on a bed of sand, protecting the surfaces of roads, car parks or grass.
- 3.8 The total cost of the beacon programme through Groundwork this year was £53,000, this includes, supply, filling, siting, removal, maintenance, storage, health and safety visits and insurance. Whilst it may appear a beacon can be a costly alternative, it is clear that the cost benefit analysis would illustrate value for money. The costs of the beacon programme are funded at 75% by The Executive Office (TEO) as part of the Good Relations Action Plan.
- 3.9 Beacon sites are safe and attract no complaints, there are no site issues in the run up to the beacon being lit, no period of collection on site or difficulties with fly tipping. Partners also acknowledge the benefit of sites having beacons with respect to not being a draw on resources in the preceding months.



- 3.10 Discussion have commenced with the NIHE with respect to contributing to the costs of the beacon programme given that a number of the beacons are on NIHE sites. This will be explored as part of the 2025 programme.

Grants

- 3.11 The Cultural Celebrations Grant Scheme was allocated a budget of £20,000 and opened on 13 May and closed on Friday 7th June.
- 19 Applications were received
 - 18 Applications were successful (1 was unsuccessful as event was funded through another grant scheme category)

- 3.12 This represented a financial commitment of £11,459.00. A summary of the awards are attached at **Appendix 2**.

Cultural Celebrations Working Group

- 3.13 The membership of the group includes Council staff from the Public Health & Wellbeing, Legal and DEA Teams. It also includes five Elected Members and representatives from partner organisations including Department for Infrastructure (DfI), Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), PSNI, NI Fire & Rescue Service, NI Housing Executive and Northern Ireland Electricity. It is chaired by a Council Officer.
- 3.14 The group traditionally meet monthly from January to September (with no meeting in August). In 2024 the meetings commenced in April and continued monthly with the last meeting being held on 03 September.
- 3.15 In addition to this an informal internal working group met on several occasions under the chairmanship of the Director of Community. This enabled detailed discussion and collaboration on issues most pertinent to Council.

Complaints

- 3.16 Council keeps a record on incoming complaints with respect to bonfire sites across the Borough and bonfire related issues. The following is a summary of the number of complaints received and the nature of those complaints.



	Site	Complaints	
		No.	Topic
B'mena	Ahoghill	2	• Tyres
	Broughshane	1	• Fly Tipping
	Broughshane (Whinsmoor)	2	• Fly Tipping
	Cullybackey	2	• Fly Tipping
	Galgorm	5	• Tyres • Fly Tipping
	Kellswater Bridge	1	• Tyres
Carrick	Prince Andrew Way	1	• Fly Tipping
Larne	Boyne Square	1	• Fly Tipping
	Craigyhill	13	• Burning bulk waste • Animal Welfare • Dangerous Structure • Base Jumper • Noise (5)
	Millbrook	2	• Tyres
TOTAL	10	30	

It should be noted that the majority of sites attracted zero complaints this year.

Clean Up Costs

- 3.17 Information received from the NIHE with respect to the bonfire related costs incurred includes both expense of erecting heat protection for NIHE tenants in close proximity to bonfires and the clean-up of waste post bonfire.
- 3.18 Below is a summary of NIHE costs across the three areas of Mid & East Antrim:

Area	Heat Protection	Clean Up	
Ballymena	£973.05	£18,106.20	TOTAL
Carrickfergus	£23,164.24		
Larne	£8,919.55		
	£33,056.84	£18,106.20	£51,164.04

- 3.19 From a Council perspective clean-up costs amounted to £33,335.15. The full breakdown of costs can be found in **Appendix 3**. For comparison in 2023 Council spent £36,873 in clean-up costs.



ACT Initiative

- 3.20 Since the approval at the July meeting of Council to award a Direct Award Contract to the ACT Initiative for a consultation process with respect to bonfires on Council owned land, officers have engaged with stakeholders to progress the work. There has been a reluctance to engage in this process and therefore work on this has stalled out this time.

Key issues going forward

- 3.21 Craigyhill bonfire and associated events remain the main issue for Council, presenting challenges from a legal and practical perspective.
- 3.22 The licencing of events, the use of Council land and the safety concerns with respect to the size of the bonfire continues to be resources intensive for Council.
- 3.23 In 2024 Craigyhill attracted the most complaints, and a number of residents have made representation to Council with respect to their dissatisfaction with regard to noise and nuisance of not only the bonfire but the events that are held over a three day period.
- 3.24 Officers have already commenced engagement with representatives of Craigyhill with the aim to discuss the challenges and concerns and work collaboratively well in advance of 2025 plans being developed.
- 3.25 The Cultural Celebrations Grant Scheme requires a review in line with legal advice received. On first examination Officers believe that the support currently being offered through the distinct scheme could easily be offered as part of the overall Council scheme through the events category, thus negating any potential challenge to the operation of a separate scheme for these purposes.

4 General Considerations / Implications

- 4.13 Financial Implications – Bonfires and associated events and activities before and following bonfires have a financial implication for Council as outlined in this report. Similarly, the beacon programme delivered as an alternative to traditional bonfires costs money, albeit that this programme attracts 75% funding through the Good Relations programme funded by TEO. It should be considered that the cost of not taking any remedial with respect to bonfires could be even more costly. Whilst the overall Council expenditure, excluding officer time, is £97,794:15, the direct cost to Council and therefore local ratepayers is £58,044:15 due to external grant funding for the beacons.
- 4.14 Human Resources – several officers are involved in a number of different capacities in the issue of bonfires. For a period of 4-6 months each year a considerable amount of time is devoted to dealing with complaints and



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

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ongoing discussions around minimizing the impact on local communities and the environment.

- 4.15 There is also the issue of health and safety of staff and ensuring that appropriate risk assessments are completed for staff, this continues to be challenging. It is worthy to note that incidents of threats to staff have considerably reduced and site representatives are increasingly cooperative with statutory partners.
- 4.16 Equality Screening – the issue of a potential negative impact on the basis of equality may apply with respect to the Cultural Celebrations Grant Scheme. This will be part of the considerations as Officer review the scheme within the context of the legal advice received.
- 4.17 Assets – bonfire have the potential to damage Council assets, Council take remedial action to reduce the risk of damage, but again this has a financial implication.
- 4.18 Alignment with Corporate Priorities and Link to Corporate Plan – work on this issue links closely with the corporate priorities and cuts across all four pillars of People, Place, Planet and Performance, in particular the stated ambition of the People pillar of “Mid and East Antrim will be a safe, inclusive, and welcoming borough, where diversity and cultural differences are celebrated, and communities live in peace”.
- 4.19 Rural Proofing and Environmental Impact – Bonfires have a significant impact on the environment particularly where toxic materials are used on the fires. In recent years Council have had considerable success on reducing the number of tyres on bonfires and through the funding and expansion of the beacon programme have displayed ongoing commitment to a more environmentally friendly approach.

5 Recommendation or Decision

- 5.1 Elected Members are asked to note the update on the 2024 Bonfire and Cultural Celebrations Programme.

6 Appendices / Links

Appendix 1 – Bonfire & Beacon Sites

Appendix 2 – Awards Summary

Appendix 3 - Breakdown of Council Clean Up Costs 2024

ALL BONFIRE/BEACON SITES ALPHABETICALLY

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	Site Name	Land Ownership	Note
1	Ahoghill	Council	
2	Antiville	Council	
3	Ballycarry	Private (Unkown)	
4	Ballykeel 1	NIHE	Beacon
5	Ballykeel 2	NIHE	Beacon
6	Broughshane	Council	
7	Craigyhill	Council	
8	Cullybackey	NIHE	
9	Cypress Place	Education Authority	
10	Doury Road	NIHE	Beacon
11	Drumtara	NIHE	
12	Dunclug	Council	August
13	Ferris Park	Council	
14	Fisherwick	Council	August
15	Galgorm	Private (Folio 24936)	
16	Glenarm	Council	
17	Glenfield/Oakfield	Council	
18	Glenfield Walk	NIHE	
19	Glynn	Council	Beacon
20	Greenisland	NIHE	
21	Harbour, Larne	Council	
22	Kellswater Bridge	Private (Folio 5889)	
23	Kinbayne	NIHE	
24	Lantara	Green Pastures	
25	Millbrook	Invest NI	
26	Moorfields	NIHE	Beacon
27	Mullaghbuoy	Council	Beacon
28	Prince Andrew Way	Transport NI	
29	Ransevyn	NIHE	Beacon
30	Sunningdale	NIHE	
31	Tullygarley, B'mena	Council	
32	Tullygarley, Larne	Council	Beacon
33	Wakehurst	Council	Beacon
34	Whitehead	Council	
35	Wilson Crescent	Council	Beacon

BONFIRES				
Ownership	Carrick	B'Mena	Larne	
Council	1	5	6	12
NIHE	4	2	0	6
Other / Private	2	3	2	7
	7	10	8	25

BEACONS				
Ownership	Carrick	B'Mena	Larne	
Council	0	2	3	5
NIHE	0	4	1	5
Other / Private	0	0	0	0
	0	6	4	10

<https://inesh.gridreferencefinder.com/>

MEA BONFIRES

	Site Name	Land Ownership	Coordinates		Address / Near to	
			X	Y		
B A L L Y M E N A	1	Ahoghill	Council	305058	401706	Cullybackey Road Link, Ahoghill BT42 1JZ
	2	Broughshane	Council	314485	406570	Knockan Road, Broughshane BT42 4LB
	3	Cullybackey	NIHE	306038	405999	Markstown Grove, Cullybackey BT42 1BW
	4	Drumtara	NIHE	311114	401413	Ballee Way, Ballee, Ballymena BT42 2HG
	5	Galgorm	Private (Folio 24936)	307651	402221	Galgorm Road, Gracehill BT42 1JU
	6	Kellswater Bridge	Private (Folio 5889)	310490	397072	Slaght Road, Kells BT42 2LX
	7	Lantara	Green Pastures	311365	401464	Ballee Way, Ballymena BT42 2HG
	8	Tullygarley	Council	309142	401366	Riverdale, Ballymena BT42 1HJ
	9	Dunclug	Council	310818	405293	Dunclug Park, Ballymena BT43 6HB
	10	Fisherwick	Council	311728	404189	Fisherwick Gardens, Ballymena BT43 7DZ

C A R R I C K	1	Cypress Place	Education Authority	340752	388058	Sunnylands Drive, Carrickfergus BT38 8JJ
	2	Glenfield/Oakfield	Council	341289	389714	Sullatober Square, Carrickfergus BT38 7SP
	3	Glenfield Walk	NIHE	340353	388219	Glenfield Walk, Carrickfergus BT38 8EZ
	4	Greenisland	NIHE	337450	385039	32, Fauncran Park, Greenisland BT38 8UU
	5	Kinbayne	NIHE	336869	385304	18, Kinbayne Avenue, Greenisland BT38 8SU
	6	Prince Andrew Way	Transport NI	341315	388745	Prince Andrew Way, Carrickfergus BT38 7XA
	7	Sunningdale	NIHE	340721	388247	Sunningdale Crescent, Carrickfergus BT38 8JS

L A R N E	1	Antiville	Council	338793	403131	Fairway, Larne, BT40 2BG
	2	Ballycarry	Private (Unkown)	344722	393934	C.F Beattie, Main Street, Ballycarry, BT38 9HH
	3	Craigyhill	Council	338622	403599	Linn Road, Larne, BT40 2HT
	4	Ferris Park	Council	340322	403405	Greenland Drive, Larne, BT40 1HD
	5	Glenarm	Council	331441	415470	Coast Road, Glenarm, BT44 0BA
	6	Harbour	Council	341086	402485	Curran Road, Larne, BT40 1BX
	7	Millbrook	Invest NI	337639	401471	Willowbank Road, Millbrook, Larne, BT40 2RY
	8	Whitehead	Council	347964	392179	Black Head Path Car Park

TOTAL 25

MEA BEACONS

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		Site Name	Land Ownership	Coordinates		Address / Near to	Beacon Type
				X	Y		
B · M E N A	1	Ballykeel 1	NIHE	311583	402581	Kintyre Park, Ballykeel 1, Ballymena BT42 4AD	Groundwork
	2	Ballykeel 2	NIHE	312272	403098	Ballykeel 2, Ballymena BT42 4DN	Groundwork
	3	Doury Road	NIHE	310636	404665	Alexandra Park, Ballymena BT43 6SU	Ballymena Beacon
	4	Moorfields	NIHE	318343	399410	McNeill Park Moorfields BT42 3EF	Groundwork
	5	Wakehurst	Council	310839	402205	Wakehurst Road, Ballymena BT42 4BY	Ballymena Beacon
	6	Wilson Crescent	Council	311143	402167	Brooke Park, Ballymena BT42 3AX	Groundwork

L A R N E	1	Glynn	Council	340738	399810	Hawthorn Manor, Glynn, BT40 3HF	Groundwork
	2	Mullaghbuoy	Council	346263	400979	Ashvale Park, Mullaghboy T40 3TQ	Groundwork
	3	Ransevyn	NIHE	347386	392426	Ransevyn Court, Whitehead BT38 9NA	Groundwork
	4	Tullygarley	Council	339949	402141	Bank Road, Larne BT40 1HY	Groundwork

TOTAL	10
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APPENDIX 2 – AWARDS SUMMARY

GROUP	EVENT	AWARD
Ahoghill Yew Tree Community Group	11th July Family Fun Day	£ 375.00
Ulster Grenadiers Flute Band	UGFB Twelfth Celebration	£1,500.00
Raloo Rural, Cultural & Educational Group	Raloo's Cultural Fun Day	£500.00
Ballykeel 2 & District Community Association	'Keel Does Culture	£500.00
Braid District LOL No 18	Annual Battle of the Boyne Celebration	£1,500.00
Straid LOL 521	Straid July BBQ & Tea Party	£375.00
McNeillstown Hall	Time to Remember	£1,500.00
Galgorm LOL 239	Galgorm Twelfth Festival	£500.00
Killyglen Rural Cultural Society	Cultural Evening & BBQ	£500.00
Kilwaughter Cultural and Educational Group	Cultural Day and BBQ	£500.00
Millbrook Community Development Association	11th July Community Cultural Fun Day	£500.00
Clough Cultural Group	11th July family fun day	£363.35
Ransevyn, Islandmagee Road and Garden Village Residents Association	11th July Family Fun Day	£483.75
Kellswater LOL 453	2024 Twelfth Celebrations	£500.00
Ballyboley Pipe Band	Cultural Celebration BBQ	£375.00
Craigwarren LOL 476	Glorious 12th Community Night	£500.00
Cairncastle L.O.L. 692	Cairncastle Twelfth Festival	£500.00
Cairncastle Cultural Group	Twelfth community evening	£487.50
		£11,459.60

Appendix 3 - Breakdown of Council Clean Up Costs

MID AND EAST ANTRIM BONFIRE CLEARANCE				
	July 2023		July 2024	
	Tonnes	Location Total £	Tonnes	Location Total £
Ahoghill	14.72	2,583	9.82	2,056
Broughshane	16.46	2,789	18.8	3,356
Galgorm	2.72	646	3.08	703
Millbrook	24.86	4,369		
Ferris Park	17.02	2,928	13.52	2,528
Curran Road	9.18	1,697	7.36	1,433
Ballycarry	13.78	2,442	11.04	2,104
Craigyhill	39.20	6,758	46.26	8,332
Glynn	12.00	2,385		
Glenarm	11.76	2,139	16.24	2,922
Whitehead	19.12	3,241	18.46	3,346
Oakfield	18.08	3,140	22.92	4,342
Dunclug	9.40	1,757.5		
Antiville			11.04	2,214
Total	208.30	36,873	178.54	33,335

Clean-up was carried out in-house with 4 tonnes removed at an estimated cost of £750

Beacon site this year

Forward Plan – Neighbourhoods & Community Committee (17 October 2024 v22)**1. Planned Agenda Items Next meeting 03 December 2024**

Items	Purpose
Gobbins Sub-Committee Adoption of Minutes & Review of Terms of Reference	Report for Approval
The Gobbins Operational Update and 2025 Plans	Report for Noting
Gracehill UNESCO Site Update	Report for Noting
Arts & Culture Strategic Update	Report for Noting
Carnfunnock Country Park Tender - Closed	Report for Approval
Community Health & Wellbeing Activities Presentation	Report for Noting
Environmental Crime 6-month Update	Report for Noting
Strategic Alliance Update	Report for Noting
Advice Service Contract 2024/25 Update	Report for Noting

2. Future Meetings

Meeting Date	Item	Purpose
14 Jan 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Product Development & Regeneration Strategic Update 	Report for Noting
25 Feb 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lough Neagh Partnership 2025/2026 Funding Request Tourism Marketing Strategic Update Donations to Museums Dog Control Orders – New & Amended Impending Ban on XL Bully Dogs Update 	Report for Approval Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Approval Report for Noting
08 April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gracehill UNESCO Site Update The Gobbins Operational Update Donations to Museums Arts and Culture Strategic Update 	Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Approval Report for Noting
20 May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gobbins Sub-Committee Adoption of Minutes Mid and East Antrim Tourism Arts and Culture Interim Plan for 2025-2026 and year-end report Visitor Information Provision Progress Update 	Report for Approval Report for Noting Report for Noting

3. Items to be programmed

Item	Purpose
ToR	Updates as and when required
Grant Awards Quarterly Updates	Moved from CRPG Committee by S Williams
Environment Fund	If funding is secured, progress project – business case
Tullygarley?	Outcome of Survey? Proposed next steps?
Access and Inclusion Funding	Report for Approval
Ban on XL Bully Type Breeds	Further updates as more information obtained
Age Friendly	Regular update
Leisure Transformation	Update on progress with filling new structure
Community Resuscitation	Update on multi-agency engagement
MEAqua Programme	Update – this is in the 24/25 PIP
Animal Welfare Service	Update on funding post JR.

	Approval to adopt new delivery/funding model
Ulster History Circle	To seek approval for MEABC to join Ulster History Circle Membership
Town Halls Update	To update Elected Members on progress of Arts & Culture team's involvement in improving town hall booking processes and to seek approval for way forward
Museum Accreditation of Arthur Cottage	To update Elected Members on application for accreditation