

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL SECTION 75 SCREENING REPORT

1 JANUARY 2021 to 31 MARCH 2021

OUTCOME OF SCREENED POLICIES

Policy Number	Policy	Description and aim of policy	Screening Outcome
E 209	Request to recognise the 100th anniversary of the forming of the RUC with an event in June 2022 and afterwards to locate the Newtownards RUC Station Plaque in a suitably agreed public location to mark the centenary of the forming of the RUC.	<p>June 2022 will be the Centenary of the formation of the RUC. As there was an original station on the Comber Road, Newtownards which opened on 4 June 1922 as a training facility for recruits until 1936, a request has been received from The RUC George Cross Association in Newtownards to have an event and exhibition in the Borough, specifically in the Newtownards area. This will acknowledge the role the RUC had in their policing responsibilities in Northern Ireland in the centenary year of its formation. It will also recognise the local link with the training depot located on Comber Road, Newtownards between 1922 and 1936.</p> <p>Both Ards Borough Council and North Down Borough Council had conferred the Freedom of the Borough on the RUC.</p> <p>The proposal being put to the Council is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have a parade and launch of an exhibition on Friday 10 June 2022. It is proposed the parade would start at The Royal British Legion, Court Square with a wreath laying at the RUC memorial. The route would be to Conway Square and then to the Queens Hall. It is hoped the parade will be led by the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment. Following the parade an exhibition will be held in the Queens Hall, Newtownards where the plaque with RUC crest from the gates of the RUC Station in Newtownards will have been placed on a temporary plinth. The plaque will be unveiled to open the exhibition for the weekend of Friday 10 – Sunday 12 June 2022. The exhibition will include memorabilia and photographs. Some of the items will be from 	<p>Screened in with mitigation.</p> <p>Education is required and clear information on the plaque and reason and activities for the weekend's events.</p>

		<p>the Police Museum, Belfast whilst other items are personal to a resident of the Borough.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the exhibition, the Station Plaque will be on display for 12 weeks in the Ards Arts Centre, ground floor between the portraits where it will be set in context with explanation of its origin. • Ards and North Down Borough Council are to make an application to be given the RUC Station plaque from the Police Museum and arrange to have it on permanent display. The location will be determined on receipt of the plaque. 	
E 228	2021/22 Arts and Tourism Events Transition Plan	<p>Each year Council manages and delivers a series of Arts and Tourism Events. The Events and the programming of each has remained reasonably consistent since the Council merger in 2015. Since March 2020 the delivery of Events has been impossible due to Covid 19 restrictions. All season 20/21 events were cancelled by Council and it is not known when restrictions will be lifted sufficiently to enable events to take place again. This is starting to look more favourable due to the vaccination programme. During the last year Council completed the development of the Borough Events Strategic Direction document. Throughout this process, key principles for how the Council might consider its support and delivery of events have emerged. Significant areas of 'change' have been identified. It is acknowledged that this will require time and resources to research and develop, therefore the timeline is indicative. Council approved the Borough Events Strategic Direction in November 2020 and officers have developed an Arts and Tourism Events Transition Plan considering similar programme activity delivered in various previous events. Therefore, the Council has developed an Arts and Tourism Event Transition Programme which can deliver safe, sustainable events whilst meeting the Corporate Plan objectives and taking cognisance of learnings and recommendations from the Borough Events Strategic Direction document. This will enable the delivering of broadest outcomes during a continuing financially and Covid challenging period.</p>	Screened out

E 229	Tourism Events Grant Scheme 21/22	<p>The Tourism Events Grant Scheme is a funding scheme open to eligible event organisers who intend to run tourism events within the Ards and North Down Borough Council area within the financial year, or the dates set for the Scheme. Due to the global pandemic, the dates for the 21/22 Scheme are 1 June 2021 to 31 March 2022.</p> <p>The Tourism Events Grant Scheme aims to support as many events as possible throughout the Borough.</p> <p>The Scheme is open to all (with the exception of a small number such as individuals/sole traders, trade or professional conferences/conventions and organisations not legally established in the UK) therefore achieving equity of access to the scheme.</p> <p>Tourism Events are classed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Events that have activity over consecutive days; - Events that attract visitors and participants especially from outside of the Borough; - Events that have the potential to increase economic benefit to the Borough; - Events that promote sustainable tourism, e.g., through recycling or other eco-friendly elements; <p>Eligibility criteria is set that is widely available to all potential applicants and states all event organisers must be constituted community and voluntary organisations or Limited Companies and meet further relevant criteria.</p> <p>Events must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support or promote any religious or political dimension; - Be retrospective (i.e., events which have already taken place or where event expenditure was incurred before a grant award was confirmed); - be fundraising vehicles, whether for the event organisation itself or to raise funds for transmission to a third party. <p>The main aim of the Scheme is to attract visitors (and therefore economic benefit) to the Borough in order to showcase what we have on offer, through grant funding events.</p>	Screened out
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E 230	EU Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Digital Project Application Proposal to aid COVID-19 Recovery	<p>In July 2020 Council representatives were informed that Invest NI (INI) has received approval to use unused ERDF funds to support an 11-Council C-19 Recovery Programme.</p> <p>The budget would be approximatively £1.1m and match funding would be required by each Council. The indicated funding split is similar to current ERDF programmes: ERDF 60%, INI 20%, Council match funding 20%.</p> <p>Councils were informed that the current criteria can be relaxed, which means that previously ineligible sectors can now be included e.g., Tourism and Retail and, the cost per job requirement will no longer be a consideration. However, the proposed programme cannot be an extension of current programmes. INI have also outlined that Council's will have to go through an application process for approval.</p> <p>The programme has three broad aims:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To drive 'digital inclination' amongst the target market aligned to an innovation roadmap (for each SME/micro-business). 2. To 'demystify' various advanced digital technologies / tools through high quality ideation support, exposure to and sharing of good practice, and active experimentation. 3. To put in place a digital acceleration plan for each, to route participating businesses onto more intensive supports in the 'digital innovation ecosystem' (e.g., via Digital Catapult, impending digital offers in various City/Growth Deals, Invest NI supports etc). <p>In order to deliver such a programme within the funding time limits of ERDF, it is envisaged that the programme will commence in April 2021 (subject to approval times for the bid) and run to September 2022, prior to the expected approval/ mobilisation of the offers within the digital pillars of the various City/Growth deals.</p> <p>Following research on options and areas of potential demand within local businesses the programme proposes to focus on Digital Transformation to assist economic recovery. It is based on a collaborative approach and will operate across all 11 Council areas in Northern Ireland. The target market is small and micro-businesses</p>	Screened out
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		<p>(SMBs), across all sectors, including but not limited to, manufacturing and tradeable services, retail, tourism, hospitality and the construction sectors.</p> <p>The emphasis of the programme will be on enabling business transformation and not 'digitisation' of existing business models / operations which other existing programmes support. In this context, by way of examples, the programme will not offer support in the following areas - website and e-commerce development; social media strategies; mobile marketing, paid advertising, blogging and content creation; search engine optimisation, customer relationship management, 3-D printing/ additive manufacturing and 'the cloud'/ cloud computing.</p> <p>This programme proposal is positioned as an 'action-learning' pilot initiative that can particularly target this 'segment' of market demand. The engagements for the development of this joint funding bid all suggest that there is demand from small and micro-businesses for a programme pitched at this level, which should be further tested. This programme widens the business sectors applicable to include sectors which have previously been excluded and therefore, should enable more business sectors to be eligible to apply as well as complement and provide additionality to the existing digital and business support programmes which are currently delivered by Council.</p>	
E 231	Ards and North Down Borough Council Roadmap to Sustainability 2021-2028	<p>Since the introduction of the Statutory Duty on Sustainable Development in 2006, as a result of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 (Section 25), councils have a statutory duty to carry out their functions in a way that contributes to sustainable development. The Council also has a Sustainability and Environmental Policy, which was introduced in 2015. The Policy outlines the Council's commitment to integrate sustainability throughout its activities. The Council has developed key strategies in recent years and is developing and currently updating several of its other key strategy documents. It has recognised the need for a Sustainability Roadmap to be developed to formally outline how it aims to progress</p>	Screened out

		<p>towards the goal of becoming more sustainable. This Roadmap document is therefore regarded as a key enabler for a more sustainable Borough.</p> <p>The Council's main aspiration for this Roadmap is to enable the Borough to become an exemplar in sustainability. For this to be achieved, the Council recognises that improvements need to be made on the implementation of actions associated with its strategies. The prevailing Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical need for a sustainable approach to how we move forward as a society both locally and globally.</p> <p>This Roadmap has been developed to formalise the Council's commitment to becoming more sustainable. The Council, through its implementation of other key strategies and partnerships such as The Big Plan and ongoing initiatives to improve waste management practices within the Borough, has been steadily improving its sustainability performance.</p> <p>This Roadmap is for the period 2021 to 2028 and will be updated periodically, with the accompanying Action Plan reviewed and updated on an annual basis.</p> <p>The Council's sustainability commitments are being completed within other Council strategies and plans and this document has been developed to present what sustainability benefits the strategies will deliver, setting out the key strategic background.</p>	
E 232	Policy and procedures for exhibition selection at Ards Arts Centre	<p>Ards and North Down Arts and Heritage Services (AND Arts and Heritage) aim to cultivate the profile and provision for the arts and heritage in the Borough of Ards and North Down through the sustained development of an appropriate programme of arts/culture and heritage events, festivals, exhibitions and outreach activities.</p> <p>The policy and procedures document sets out the role of the Manager and panels as well as the criteria for submission and selection of exhibitions.</p> <p>AND Arts and Heritage Visual Arts Sub-Panel, under the direction of the Arts and Heritage Manager for Ards and North Down Borough</p>	Screened out

		<p>Council, are responsible for recommending exhibitions at Ards Arts Centre. The Sub-Panel meet annually, or as required, to review exhibition proposals and select work based on consideration of criteria outlined in this Policy.</p> <p>The Arts and Heritage Manager maintains the ability to directly commission and select exhibitions that complement and meet the needs of the diverse Arts and Heritage Programme on offer.</p> <p>The aim of this policy and accompanying procedures is to provide guidance for individuals or groups applying to exhibit in one of the two gallery spaces at Ards Arts Centre. The policy explains how to apply and how exhibitions are selected.</p>	
E 233	Future Cemetery Provision Project Brief	<p>The Council are statutorily required to provide public burial grounds sufficient for the present and future needs of the Borough under Part 3 of the Public Health Ireland Act 1878. How it operates the burial grounds and supporting services is mainly governed by the Burial Grounds Regulations (NI) 1992.</p> <p>The proposed project aim is to therefore identify and develop future cemetery service provision for the Borough that will satisfy local needs for the next 30-50 years.</p> <p>The best provision for burial space for both the current and expected demands for coffin and ashes burials is to be identified within the project brief as is the feasibility of the provision of a cremation service and its suitability for inclusion as part of a solution determined.</p> <p>Where appropriate sharing resources with neighbouring Councils and other external providers is to be used if this would provide a better service whilst sustainability and equality is at the heart of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Supply of burial space at 2 of the Councils 12 cemeteries is likely to run out within 2.5 - 4 years (Redburn, Holywood and Movilla) and 3 others within 12 years (Bangor, Greyabbey and Ballyvester) Therefore, options for continuing service need to be explored.</p> <p>An initial phase one sift of 21 potential sites was undertaken by Aecom in 2017 – 2019 and this resulted in a recommendation on a strategic</p>	Screened out

		<p>direction which was to develop 2 green field out of settlement sites rather than extend existing sites. This strategy was not approved by Council. Instead, Council has agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Investigate extending Movilla at the existing location using Council owned land.2. Free up existing land at Greyabbey and Ballyvester (for more graves, and then use existing sites in the Ards peninsula when these sites are full).3. Develop one of three locations for a combined site for Bangor and Holywood, either at Clandeboye, Kinnegar or the Holywood Hills. <p>Separate to this project some options are being explored to extend the cemetery provision at the existing site at Ballyvester and Greyabbey. However, for the Movilla, Bangor and Redburn, Holywood sites further long-term options will need to be explored with a view to extending the life of the cemeteries for a further 30-50 years. Cremation as an option is growing steadily with both Belfast City Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey proposing to build more cremation facilities. It might not be financially wise for AND to do the same as the other Councils developments would treble the provision for Northern Ireland, but allowance should be made to support the growing demand for burial of cremated remains at our cemeteries.</p> <p>However, Council should not rule out the possibility of providing a crematorium at this stage but should investigate further.</p>	
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