

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

1 October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) of the Environment Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards on **Wednesday, 8 October 2025** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Yours faithfully

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

A G E N D A

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Declarations of Interest
- 3. Deputation – Portaferry Town Boys Football Club

Reports for Approval

- 4. IPB Pride of Place Awards 2025 (Report attached)
- 5. Strangford and Lecale 'Landscape Connections' (Report attached)
- 6. Any Other Notified Business

*****ITEMS 7-13 IN CONFIDENCE*****

Reports for Approval

- 7. Movilla Cemetery Outline Business Case (to follow)

Reports for Approval Delegated to Committee

- 8. Tender Extension – End of Season Maintenance of Sports Pitches (Report attached)
- 9. Tender Extension – Arboriculture Services (Report attached)
- 10. Tender Extension – Provision of Floral Containers (Report attached)

- 11. Tender Extension - Provision of Electrical Services (Report attached)
- 12. Tender for the Provision of External Lighting Inspection and Repair (Including Festive Lighting Inspection , Repair, PAT and Installation) (Report attached)

Reports for Noting

- 13. Result of Collaborative Tender for Gas and Electricity (Report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (16 Members)

Alderman Adair	Councillor Douglas
Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Councillor Edmund
Councillor Ashe	Councillor Harbinson (Vice Chair)
Councillor Blaney	Councillor Irwin
Councillor Boyle	Councillor Kendall (Chair)
Councillor Brady	Alderman McAlpine
Alderman Cummings	Councillor McLaren
Councillor Cathcart	Councillor Wray

Unclassified

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ITEM 4

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	08 October 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	22 September 2025
File Reference	PCA137
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☒ No ☐ Other ☐ If other, please add comment below:
Subject	IPB Pride of Place Awards 2025
Attachments	n/a

Members will be aware that Donaghadee Community Development Association and Youth Voice were nominated to represent Ards and North Down in the IPB Pride of Place Awards. These nominations were agreed by the Council in April 2025.

IPB Pride of Place in association with Co-Operation Ireland is an all-island competition that acknowledges the work that communities are doing. The competition focus is about people coming together to shape, change and improve daily lives in their communities. Since the competition commenced, it has impacted on hundreds of thousands of people, all of whom are proud of their place.

The competition is based on communities demonstrating directly to the judges the work they do by oral presentations where they highlight their community activities and how these contribute to their pride of place. It is also important that the community demonstrates a real partnership with their local authority.

Donaghadee Community Development Association we nominated in the 'Population Over 5000' category and Youth Voice in the 'Community Youth Initiative' Category.

Not Applicable

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The announcement of the results is to be held at a ceremony at the Strand Hotel, Limerick on 7 November 2025 between 6pm and 11pm.

An invitation has been received for up to two persons from each nominated group to attend the Award Ceremony. A further four tickets have been allocated to the Council. The Chief Executive of each Council is invited separately.

Given the timing of the event, it is envisaged that an overnight stay will be required. It is envisaged that the cost to attend this prestigious event will be approximately £250.00 per person for accommodation and travel. It is proposed that the Mayor, one Council Officer, two members of Donaghadee Community Development Association and three members of Youth Voice attend the ceremony. Youth Voice require an additional ticket due to safeguarding guidelines. Total cost would therefore be approximately £1750.00

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approves the funding for the attendance at the IPB Pride of Place Awards ceremony in Limerick of the Mayor, one Council Officer and two members of Donaghadee Community Development Association and three members of Youth Voice attend the ceremony.

Unclassified

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ITEM 5

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	08 October 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	22 September 2025
File Reference	PCA144
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☒ No ☐ Other ☐ If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Strangford and Lecale 'Landscape Connections'
Attachments	n/a

Ards and North Down Borough Council are in a partnership with Newry Mourne and Down District Council to manage the Strangford Lough and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) through the Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership (SLLP).

Officers in the SLLP partnership are in the process of applying for funding to deliver a ten-year project called 'Strangford and Lecale Landscape Connections'.

Landscape Connections is a major funding initiative by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). This programme aims to bring nature, heritage, and communities together across special protected areas like the Strangford and Lecale AONB.

It supports large projects across the UK, including an AONB like Strangford and Lecale, encouraging partnerships between communities, land managers, conservationists, and heritage groups.

Not Applicable

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The goal is to help local people reconnect with the land, restore wildlife and habitats, strengthen farms and livelihoods, and make nature more accessible to everyone, including those who don't usually visit these beautiful places.

A survey was issued to local Community Groups and other Stakeholders in September 2025 to help inform the scope of the project as the focus is to have the project shaped by local people who live in the AONB.

The project plan is not fixed yet as the hope is to begin a conversation with local groups, landowners, and residents to listen to their ideas, needs, and priorities. This is to understand what matters most to local people about this landscape and explore how we can work together to protect, connect, and celebrate it. The information gathered as part of the survey will play a vital role in shaping the shared vision and actions that will be developed for the future.

An Expression of Interest has already been submitted to NLHF and a full application will follow in November 2025, prior to that SLLP will continue to gather ideas and build partnerships. If successful, the project will then move into a Development Phase from 2026 to 2028, where they will work with communities through workshops, co-design, pilots, and testing ideas to create a detailed plan. From 2028 to 2034, the Delivery Phase will bring this plan to life over eight years, with ongoing opportunities for local people to be involved at every stage.

The total anticipated partnership project cost of **£12.425 million**, with projected funding as follows:

- NLHF grant: **£9.841m** (Development - £1.105m; Delivery - £8.3791m)
- DAERA grant: **£1.913m** (Development - £275k; Delivery - £1.638m)
- Partnership match funding - Development: £125k

It is anticipated that the match funding from Ards and North Down Borough Council will be:

- **£40k** in year 1 and 2 as part of the Development Phase
- **£10k** per year in the delivery phase until the end of the project

The full project is anticipated to be completed by February 2035, subject to funding being secured.

The key focus of this project is nature recovery with the delivery of practical interventions to create habitats that are bigger, better and more joined up across the significant landscape of the Strangford and Lecale AONB.

The Strangford and Lecale AONB stretches from the shores of Strangford Lough to the coast of the Irish Sea. It includes rich farmland, dramatic drumlins, historic villages, ancient monuments, and a stunning coastline with internationally important wildlife. This landscape is not only beautiful, but is also shaped by generations of people, farming, fishing, and community traditions.

Not Applicable

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This project seeks to reconnect people, nature and heritage across the landscape using water as the foundation for connection. There is a need to address current patterns of use that are not sustainable, encourage responsible participation among users and promote greater understanding of the fragile landscape and rich heritage.

The main themes of the project:

- **Connections to nature** – within the river catchments we can contribute to nature recovery through peatland/heathland restoration, hedgerow and tree planting and river and wetlands restoration to slow the flow, improve water quality and increase biodiversity
- **Connections to communities** – reconnect people to their local community first, including those who sit outside but near the AONBs, then forge connections across the wider landscape and communities to improve inclusivity and encourage people to respect and stand up for the heritage of the landscape
- **Connections to landowners** – engagement with landowners and farmers to explore areas of common interest and appetite for change, provide opportunities for upskilling and subsequent delivery of nature conservation works
- **Connections across the organisations** – collaborative network between those caring for the landscape of the two AONB's to deliver efficiently and learn from each other

The project aims to achieve the following outcomes by 2035:

Inclusion, access and participation (End unequal access)

- Reconnect people with the landscape

Protecting and restoring the natural environment (Restore nature)

- Transform our habitats into recovery
- Prioritising the protection of drinking water supplies within the drinking water catchment

Saving heritage (Inspire people to care and take action)

- Improve our connection to the heritage of the landscape

Organisational sustainability (Renew our ways of working)

- Develop a recommended sustainable management and governance structure

The project partners include SLLP, Ulster Wildlife, Newry Mourne and Down District Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Officers for the project will be employed by Newry and Mourne District Council and Ulster Wildlife and will work across the entirety of the project area including that in Ards and North Down Borough Council area. Any capital works will be procured and

Not Applicable

managed by Newry Mourne and Down District Council including those in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area.

An Expression of Interest was submitted to NLHF in February 2025, and the project was invited to develop and submit a development phase application. The bid to NLHF will be submitted by 12 November 2025. We will know the outcome of the bid three months after the NLHR Board meeting, and if successful the development phase will be delivered from 2026 to 2028.

Note – all funding is subject to an application process.

The scale and ambition of the project, the opportunity it presents to support delivery of our Councils strategic priorities and the historic and continued lack of investment in landscape management in Northern Ireland, make this a significant and high-profile submission to NLHF.

This project will demonstrate success that will leverage further opportunities for the Borough and provide a catalyst for the development and delivery of other projects through the partnership. The interim outputs can be used to identify gaps and areas where other projects are required, enabling these to be scoped and suitable funding sources identified to support future delivery.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council supports the application for this funding opportunity and the necessary match funding, if the funding application is successful and subject to the rates setting process.