

Report on	Development Report
Date of Meeting	16 May 2024
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke – Neighbourhood Development Manager, Catherine Fox – Arts Development Manager, Brian McCormick – Seamus Heaney HomePlace Manager, Martina Totten – Social Inclusion Manager, Denise Smith – Diversity & Integration Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members and seek approval for the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Minority Languages Bursary Funding 2024-2025 • John Hewitt, and Tyrone Guthrie Bursary Support • Railway Park Final Design • PeacePlus Partner Request • EU Linkages with Community Led Partnership Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid • DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding • Development Department Update
2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Regional Minority Languages Bursary Funding 2024-2025</p> <p>The RML Bursary scheme 'went live' for applications on Thursday 1st February 2024 with a closing date for submissions of Friday 12th April 2024.</p> <p>Under the Regional Minority Languages Bursary scheme, 125 completed applications were received. This is a considerable increase in demand from 2023 when 105 bursaries were awarded. Checks for duplication of funding from other grants sources such as Tyrone GAA/Tyrone LGFA etc will be carried out in due course. The budget for the Regional Minority Languages is £30,000 and this is then distributed evenly among the recipients. A list of all applicants for recommended approved bursaries can be found at Appendix 1.</p>
2.2	<p>Request for Arts Bursary Support</p> <p>Council has received a request to support a bursary award for a Mid Ulster District Council resident to attend the John Hewitt International Summer School of Literature &</p>

the Arts Festival (JHISS) which will take place this year from Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th July. The theme for The John Hewitt Society summer school 2024 is - To Live Among Strangers: Diversity & A Shared Future.

The cost of a bursary fee this year is £550 (reduced bursary rate - per person (cost to attend is much higher at £713.50). A copy of the request is attached at **Appendix 2**.

Council may also receive a residency request to attend the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Co. Monaghan which promotes excellence and innovation across all art forms by providing workspaces for writers, musicians, composers, artists, directors, film makers and others in the art sector. Should a request be submitted, it is proposed that this would be supported at a cost of 400 Euro (cost to attend the Tyrone Guthrie Centre for one week is €400.00).

2.3 **Railway Park Regeneration Project**

Members will be aware that the Railway Park Regeneration Project has been in development for some time, and in an effort to move the scheme forward officers have engaged in a follow up process of consultation with Members and local stakeholders.

The consultation has resulted in final concept designs being updated (**Appendix 3**), with a proposal that the scheme be considered over 3 phases. The phased approach will allow progress to be made on those elements agreed and ready to go, while other outstanding matters for the other phases are progressed. The 3 phases proposed are;

- **Phase 1 – Landscape & infrastructure**
- **Phase 2 – Recreation and sports area**
- **Phase 3 – Active Travel bridge linkage (Mark Street)**

The designs included for Phase 1 of the project appear to have consensus, based on the stakeholder engagement, while further consideration, consultation and engagement is required for Phase 2 and detailed studies and statutory application(s) required for Phase 3.

To progress to the next stage in our Capital Planning Process, Members are recommended to give an in principle agreement to the overall concept design for Railway Park and to agree Phase 1 as final designs so that this phase can be implemented (subject to the capital planning process). In parallel to phase 1 work will continue to be progressed around Phases 2 & 3

2.4 **PeacePlus Partner Request**

Ulster University in partnership with Foras Na Gaeilge are submitting a project to Peaceplus funding and have requested that Council would join the project as an Associate Partner. The project consortium includes Ulster University, Foras na Gaeilge, The Ulster Scots Agency, East Belfast Mission, Comhaltas Uladh, University of the Highlands and Islands and Galway University. This will be a four-year project running from January 2025 - December 2028. A copy of the request and further detail on the project is attached at **Appendix 4**.

It is proposed that Council would agree to be an Associate partner in the above project.

2.5 **EU Linkages with Community Led Partnership with Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid**

Engagement between the two regions; Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid (town outside Madrid) and Mid Ulster has taken place over the last 20 years. The relationship was first established with Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2005 as part of cultural development and engagement with the Charlie Donnelly winter school.

As part of this engagement reciprocal visits took place between Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid and Dungannon; focusing on the connection of the poet Charlie Donnelly to both regions with civic linkages. The annual Charlie Donnelly Winter School, led by the community, is held in March in Dungannon each year, and representatives from Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid attend along with Council.

A request for Council to support the strengthening of linkages between Mid Ulster and Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid building on the engagement to date of the Dungannon-born poet Charlie Donnelly, and expanding these further to the Arts, Heritage, Culture and Tourism, focusing on youth international engagement/leadership/empowerment. This will be led by the community through SEACHT; support is being sought from Council sought for civic recognition and representation as required during visits.

Please refer to Appendix 5

2.6 **DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding**

Council receives annual funding from DFC to do a direct award to the Mid Ulster Advice Service for provision of Welfare Reform Mitigations, Appeals and Advice. Permission is sought to transfer the funding of £23,167.60 for Welfare Reform Mitigations, £5,859.24 for Welfare Reform Tribunal Representations and £35,776.65 for Advice. Monitoring of this funding support is directly via DFC.

2.7 **Development Update**

Neighbourhood/Community Development

The grants have been agreed for progressing, with the exception of the small development grant and pitches feasibility grant, letters of offer are being prepared to go out to allow groups to commence activity. The two grants for final approval are presented for consideration later in the meeting.

Covid Small Settlement projects –

Coalisland Canal – engagement is continuing to progress final design options following community consultation.

Moy – the outcome of the PAN public consultation is complete and this is being progressed to the next stage of planning.

Connecting Pomeroy – The Forest building is due for handover at the beginning of May. The celebration event for Connecting Pomeroy and the launch of the Forest Building and Magical trails is scheduled for 30th May at 2.00 – 4.00pm. A pre visit for members to the Pomeroy Forest Building and Forest Trails is scheduled for 21st May.

Social Inclusion

The delivery of the test and learn model for Community Wealth Building is continuing. The most recent meeting of the CWB Working Group took place on Wednesday 24th April. A final report on the test and learn projects will be brought to the next Working Group meeting in June. This report will be used to inform the development of a Community Wealth Building Framework and Action Plan for the district.

The delivery of the Anti-Poverty Plan is continuing. A Pre-Loved Market and Family Fun will take place on Saturday 15th June in Meadowbank Sports Area, in partnership with the Waste and Sustainability team, to sell pre-loved baby and children's items such as prams, car seats, clothes, toys etc, as well as information stands and demos, focused on families. This event will be a pilot and if successful will be delivered in our other main towns.

Good Relations & Peace

The new plan for 2024 – 25 has been submitted to TEO for funding, no further update at this time.

The approval for the Peace Plus local action plan is pending decision by SEUPB. An update has been provided that this is anticipated in June 2024.

Burnavon Arts Centre

The Spring/Summer programme is selling well with a new programme being developed for the Autumn/Winter period. A cultural celebration showcase, and the July Summer scheme are just some of the highlights of the current season with a number of sell out shows across the programme. The new initiative "Give it a go" arts taster sessions, in support of mental health awareness week in May, are fully booked.

Seamus Heaney Homeplace

The Arts Programme at SHHP continues to draw significant numbers to the events with Irvine Walsh and Briana Corrigan reading and performing to sell-out audiences in the period. In addition, the education programme while continuing to attract schools through the formal offerings has also welcomed L'Arche Village who brought 8 adults with learning disabilities to enjoy two days of poetry and activities in the sensory garden. Also welcomed was P1/2 pupils for Bellaghy PS for a milk and cookies morning. Pagina Dos, a Spanish National TV programme, filmed a piece in SHHP for broadcast and room bookings remain significant with companies such Bloc Blinds and National Lottery Community Fund hosting conferences.

Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House

The Easter Family Fun Day was very well attended at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House and officers are rolling out the new plan for 2024-2025. The new Spring/Summer programme of workshops has just been released. Part 2 of the credit bearing QUB Open Learning course on the heritage of Hill of The O'Neill and South Tyrone has commenced and will run for 5 weeks.

Officers have been engaging with neighbours living in close proximity to the access path at Circular Road, who are now in agreement to the gate being opened, following the

	<p>completion of all associated works. Capital works will be completed over the next few months.</p> <p>A paper is being prepared on the issue of the Mast to support Council in its meetings with the Minister for the Department for Infrastructure, and Northern Ireland Water. A meeting has been arranged for DEA members on 13th May at 1pm.</p> <p><u>Regional and Minority Language</u> Officers are currently rolling out the Irish Language Plan 2024-2025 and are working with partners and groups throughout the District to further the development of the language. Applications to the Irish Language Activity funding and the bursary grants increased this year.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u> No minutes.</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Regional Minority Language Bursaries – awards £30,000, as per Plan budget John Hewitt Bursary Fee - £550 within Arts Budget Tyrone Guthrie Residential Bursary - €400 within Arts Budget</p> <p>Human: NA</p> <p>Risk Management: NA</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: NA</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: NA</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Members are recommended to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Approve the Regional Minority Language Bursary Awards (iii) Approve the allocation of funding to support an Arts Bursary Award through the John Hewitt Summer School and Tyrone Guthrie Centre (iv) Approve 'in principle' the overall concept design and phased approach for Railway Park Regeneration and agree Phase 1 as final designs for implementation (subject to the capital planning process). (v) Approve Council participation in the Peace Plus project led by Ulster University in partnership with Foras Na Gaeilge

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vi) Approve Council participation in EU Linkages Community led Partnership with Rivas (vii) Approve the transfer of DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding to Mid Ulster Advice Service (STEP) (viii) Note the Development update.
6	List of Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - List of Regional Minority Language Bursary Awards Appendix 2 – Letter from the John Hewitt Society Appendix 3 – Railway Park Final Concept Designs Appendix 4 – Peace Partner Request Appendix 5 - EU Linkages Proposal via Community Led Partnership with Rivas</p>