

<b>Report on</b>	Development Report
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Philip Clarke – Neighbourhood Development Manager, Catherine Fox – Arts Development Manager, Cathy Brown – Seamus Heaney HomePlace Manager, Martina Totten – Social Inclusion Manager, Denise Smith – Diversity & Integration Development Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
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"> <li>• John Hewitt Society Bursary</li> <li>• Tradfest Bursary</li> <li>• Tyrone Guthrie Bursary</li> <li>• Development Department -Update</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p><b>Arts - John Hewitt Society Bursary (literature)</b> 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 &amp; the Arts Festival (JHISS) which will take place this year from <b>Monday 28th July to Saturday 2nd August 2025</b>. The theme for The John Hewitt Society summer school 2025 is "Our country also: difference and belonging".</p> <p>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 <b>Appendix 1</b></p>
2.2	<p><b>Arts - Tradfest Bursary (Music)</b> A request has been received from the TradFest Bursary Scheme, which aims to help talented young traditional musicians attend the Belfast Summer School of Traditional Music, taking place from <b>27 Jul – 1 Aug 2025</b> at Ulster University.</p> <p>This week-long immersive program allows students to learn from world-class musicians, participate in workshops, perform at iconic venues, and build lifelong connections within traditional music. A copy of the request and further information is attached at <b>Appendix 2</b>. The value of a bursary is £150 with several sponsorship options. It is proposed to support 4 students from the Mid Ulster area to a value of £500.00.</p>

2.3 **Arts – Tyrone Guthrie Bursary (Literature/ or visual arts)**

Council annually supports 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. It is proposed to support a bursary at a cost of 490 Euro (cost to attend the Tyrone Guthrie Centre for one week is €490.00).

2.4 **Development Update**

**Neighbourhood Development /Community Development**

The community grants are being progressed to letter of offer for the groups.

PR for the grants has been profiled led by the Communications team.

Following an extensive co design process with the community; the Community Development strategy is at first draft with sessions being planned for member engagement.

**Covid Small Settlements –**

**Coalisland Canal** – the schedule tender to close first week May, works remain as previous to commence late summer with completed works end by Autumn.

**Moy Recreation provision** – Still pending final planning decision, it is anticipated this will go to Planning Committee in June.

**Social Inclusion**

**Neighbourhood Renewal** – Railway Park; the tender to appoint a new ICT team for design and project management of the scheme is completed at stage I PQQ, the next stage has commenced.

**Gortgonis** legals remain in progress to allow the scheme to move to the next stage.

**Good Relations & Peace**

The new Plan has been agreed by TEO (The Northern Ireland Executive Office) for funding at an award of £232,798. Members will be aware from the plan submitted that programmes were awarded based on £201k (last year award) to £269k (to allow for TEO flexibility if further funding was available). The funding will be allocated accordingly across the programmes as agreed previously by members.

Violence Against Women and Girls – The new grant opened on the 14<sup>th</sup> March and closed on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025, with grant awards being proposed within the Grant report.

**Pomeroy Forest Centre and Magical Trails**

The new staffing structure is being implemented at present.

The centre is very busy again particularly at weekends and bank holidays with numbers visiting the trails. There are further discussions with Forest Service on the potential for further parking at the site. Partner engagement is taking place with Pomeroy Development Projects regarding the use of the Rowantree Centre.

**Burnavon Arts Centre**

The Burnavon have received their re-accreditation for the Autism Impact Award.

A free Easter Family Fun Day took place at The Burnavon on Saturday, 12 April with over 600 people in attendance. A summer scheme for children will also run from Monday 21 July – Saturday 26 July 2025 with different activities taking place each day; workshops are for varying age groups and can be booked individually, see [www.burnavon.com/whats-on](http://www.burnavon.com/whats-on) . The next programme will be released to customers at the beginning of July.

#### Seamus Heaney HomePlace

The new season programme for May – August has now gone on sale at Seamus Heaney HomePlace and tickets are selling well, with Frank Skinner and Booker Prize winner Paul Lynch being particular highlights. This year’s GCSE and A Level series are finishing and have remained popular and a new offering based on the ‘bog body’ found on the outskirts of Bellaghy has been trialled to target more schools from Ireland. Our two day Easter trail through the exhibition over the holidays was a highlight.

#### Hill of The O’Neill & Ranfurly House

Hill of The O’Neill and Ranfurly House have been successful in obtaining the Autism Impact Award in April. The free Easter Family Fun Day took place on Saturday, 19 April with over 500 people in attendance.

A Hidden Heritage event has been planned for early June and will include a tour of Benburb. The Comedy Festival is scheduled to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and the Ulster Orchestra will be back on the Hill on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Bardic Theatre will be performing A Mid Summers Night Dream on the Hill of The O’Neill for 3 nights this August. Events can be viewed at [www.hilloftheoneill.com/whats-on/events](http://www.hilloftheoneill.com/whats-on/events)

#### Regional and Minority Language

Officers are currently implementing programmes and projects included in the Action Plan for 25-26. On 11<sup>th</sup> April, Monaghan County Council hosted a meeting to develop the cross border Ar Thóir Airghialla project, focussing on the heritage of the Ancient Kingdom Airghialla and the Irish Language. A conversation pilot project is being held in the Burnavon on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, “An Ciorcal Comhrá Mór”, the Big Conversation Circle. All events are available on the Council website and the Irish Language Facebook page Gaeilge Lár Uladh.

#### PCSP

Minutes for information – none.

### **3.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**

Financial:

Plans as per agreed budget.

£550 to the John Hewitt Literary Bursary award, from within budget.

£500 to the Tradfest Music Bursary award, from within budget.

€490 to the Tyrone Guthrie Literary/Visual Arts Bursary award, from within budget.

	Human: NA
	Risk Management:  As stated within the report in relation to the Euro exchange rate.
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: NA
	Rural Needs Implications: NA
<b>4</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
4.1	Members are recommended to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Agree financial contribution of £550 to the John Hewitt Literary Bursary award.</li> <li>II. Agree financial contribution of £500 to the Tradfest Music Bursary award.</li> <li>III. Agree financial contribution of €490 to the Tyrone Guthrie Literary/Visual Arts Bursary award.</li> <li>IV. Note the Development Department -Update</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 John Hewitt Bursary Award Appendix 2 Tradfest Bursary Award