



Title of Report:	Age Friendly Alliance
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 January 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy & engaged communities
Outcome	Council will work to support healthy lifestyle choices for all citizens; Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Sport & Wellbeing

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the allocation of Members to the Age-Friendly Alliance in Causeway Coast and Glens.

2.0 Background

In June 2020, Council agreed to accept the offer of funding of £90K from the Public Health Agency to recruit and host an Age Friendly Co-Ordinator for Causeway Coast and Glens for a two-year period (01 April 2020 – 31 March 2022) as part of a regional initiative.

Following on from the development of an Age-Friendly Charter for the Causeway Coast and Glens area (**Annex A**) an Age Friendly Forum and Alliance was established. The purpose of the Forum & Alliance is to create the optimal environment where issues for older people are identified and strategic planning is undertaken to embed these key issues. The Age Friendly Alliance & Age Friendly Forum will place older people, and the interests of older people, at the heart of decision-making to develop an Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan, utilising a co-production approach that engages a range of stakeholders and utilises the eight WHO themes for age friendly cities and communities.

Year one of the Age Friendly Forum and Alliance will be utilised for planning. During this year the Age Friendly Forum and Age Friendly Alliance will act to purposefully drive forward the development and implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan. Year two onward, will be utilised for implementation of agreed strategic aims and actions.

3.0 Current position

To facilitate the establishment of the Alliance, the Age-Friendly Coordinator has developed a proposed structure (**Annex B**). The Age Friendly Alliance will consist of representatives of statutory organisations who will have a remit for implementation of agreed strategic aims and key actions, thus enabling a direct link between representatives of older people in the Borough with those responsible for strategic planning for older people.

3.1 Age Friendly Alliance

Membership:

The Alliance will comprise of representatives from Elected Members, Senior Council staff, Age NI, Police Service Northern Ireland, Western Health & Social Care Trust, Northern Health & Social Care Trust, Translink NI, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Causeway Chamber, Libraries NI, Ulster University / Regional Colleges, Linking generations NI, Chairperson, Age Friendly Forum (list not exhaustive).

Roles & Responsibilities (Full terms of Reference attached as **Annex C**):

- Year 1: Oversight of Age Friendly Strategy & Action Plan development.
- Meet Quarterly. (Inaugural meeting to be held following member allocation).
- Year 2: Oversight of Age Friendly Strategy & Action Plan implementation.
- Participating in project specific subgroups.

This structure together with associated memberships / roles & responsibilities has been discussed with and approved by the funding body (PHA).

4.0 Member Allocation to Alliance

Options are presented below for the allocation of members the Age-Friendly Alliance:

Option 1:

Option 1 is to allocate 2 x members to the Age-Friendly Alliance through D'Hondt from the Leisure and Development Committee. This option would result in the following allocation:

1	DUP
2	SF

Option 2:

Option 2 is to allocate 5 x members to the Age-Friendly Alliance through D'Hondt from the Leisure and Development Committee. This option would result in the following allocation:

1	DUP
2	SF
3	UU
4	DUP
5	SDLP

5.0 Recommendations

1. To adopt the Age-Friendly Alliance Terms of Reference contained within the report.
2. To choose and approve a method of member allocation to the Age-Friendly Alliance.



Charter for an Age Friendly Community



Age Friendly
CAUSEWAY



Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council



Public Health
Agency

Foreword

I am delighted on behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to introduce the first Charter for an Age Friendly Community in our area.



Our community plan, 'A Better Future Together' outlines a long term vision and plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens area and all its citizens based on three main aims: A Sustainable Environment, A Thriving Economy and A Healthy Safe Community. The introduction of this Charter is part of the process of making sure older people are integral to achieving these aims.

The 8 visions detailed in this Charter are cross cutting with the key aims in our community plan. The visions were informed through a Borough wide survey with representation of all areas of Causeway Coast and Glens and they detail the aspirations for how life should be for all older people in our community. I am very grateful to all those who participated and shared their thoughts, concerns and expectations for older people living here. This approach will be maintained in the next stages of the programme when we develop our Strategy and Action Plan. The thoughts and opinions of older people will be intrinsic when developing plans for their lives.

Councillor Richard Holmes
Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Introduction

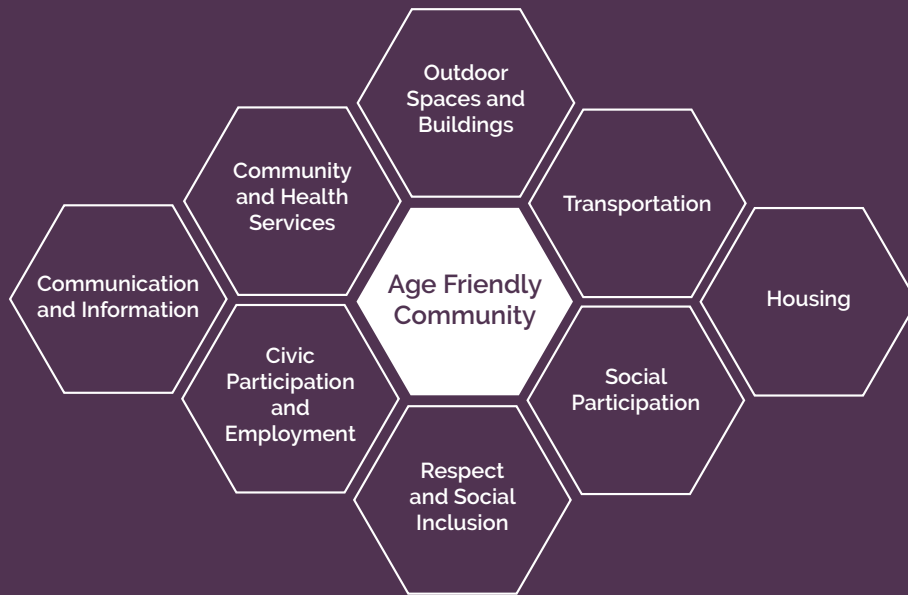
The production of this Charter is a key step to insuring that Causeway Coast and Glens is a designated Age Friendly Community.

33,015 people in Causeway Coast and Glens are aged 60+. This is expected to rise to 51,078 by 2039. This substantial increase outlines why impetus is required for ensuring we become an Age Friendly Community.

The visions detailed in this document derive from the opinions and thoughts of older people in this area but also aligns with the strategic aims of the World Health Organization, the Northern Ireland Executive's Active Ageing Strategy, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Community Plan and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons.

The Age Friendly programme aims to engrain the inclusion of older people in all aspects of community life, remove barriers to participation, ensure access to required services and make sure Causeway Coast and Glens is an enjoyable place for older people to live.

The next steps in the programme will be the creation of an Age Friendly Alliance. The Alliance will oversee the production of an Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan. The strategy will further enhance our commitment to the creation of an Age Friendly Community.



The publication of this Charter outlines the pathway for the creation of a sustainable Age Friendly Community. It outlines the opportunity to improve the lives of older people in this area through collaborative working and placing older people at the heart of all aspects of our society.

The Charter details how our communities can be improved by being truly inclusive and recognising the valuable resource that older people can be in our area.

What is the Charter?

Following our Borough wide Age Friendly survey which closed at the end of February 2021, we have identified visions that will make Causeway Coast and Glens an Age Friendly Community. We will need to make long-term commitments in order to achieve these visions.

How does it work?

The charter sets out these visions and shares opinions and common issues faced by older people gathered via the Borough-wide survey.

The survey questions followed the themes set by World Health Organization, transport; social participation; housing; respect & social inclusion; outdoor spaces & buildings; communication & information; community support & health services; civic participation & employment.

The visions in this charter have been based on these themes. They were formed from information gathered from older people in Causeway Coast and Glens.



Our visions for an Age Friendly Causeway Coast and Glens Community

- Older people in the Borough have access to safe outdoor spaces and buildings with suitable facilities.
- Older people in the Borough have access to suitable forms of transport.
- Older people in the Borough have sufficient access to affordable home maintenance services to improve home efficiency and safety.
- Older people in the Borough feel part of their local community and not isolated.
- Older people in the Borough feel heard and have a say in decision making on things that affect their lives.
- Older people in the Borough can access work and volunteering opportunities that they want.
- Older people in the Borough are able to stay connected via an effective communication system.
- Older people in the Borough have opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing and have access to appropriate health, social care and wellbeing services.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Older people in the Borough have access to safe outdoor spaces and buildings with suitable facilities.

What you said:

"The CCG area needs more outdoor walking spaces and good footpaths, better cycle route and more public toilets"

"Seating scheme planned and carried out in consultation with local groups who use the areas and taking account of Section 75 groups"

"More seated areas in towns and any green spaces to encourage people to sit out"

"Very poor toilet provision. Some suitable walking areas require seating areas"

"Not enough use made of public spaces to create safe public walkways & cycle lanes ... Many walks all alongside busy roads"

27.42% of respondents agree there is enough toilets / seating areas in the outside areas they visit

Transportation

Older people in the Borough have access to suitable forms of transport.

What you said:

"The reason I do not use public transport is that it is very poor in rural areas"

"No bus shelters within half a mile, it is too dangerous to stand at the side of the road waiting for a bus"

"More community transport options"

"I think that the information is there when I need to access it"

"Rural transport is always an issue"

88.75% of respondents drive and use own car for transport

14.52 % of respondents agree Shelters / Timetable / Waiting area / Drivers / Seats / Location / Accessibility and Route choices are adequate



Housing

Older people in the Borough have sufficient access to affordable home maintenance services to improve home efficiency and safety.

What you said:

“More should be done to encourage environmentally friendly measures in houses”

“People living alone & over 65 should get more advice & help with making their home more safe & comfortable”

“More widely available grants”

“I had a visit from COAST for home security advice which was helpful”

“Lack of support for green energy”

37.1% of respondents said they live alone

24.19 % of respondents agree there are sufficient & affordable home maintenance support services available

Social Participation

Older people in the Borough feel part of their local community and not isolated.

What you said:

"Covid has had a big impact"

"It takes a big effort to be involved. Our community group reach out admirably"

More investment in arts. Insufficient cultural events (classical music, plays etc.)

"More investment in community transport"

"Being part of our local cultural group is a great benefit to many"

"Transport can be a big issue for those who do not drive / own a car"

19.35% of respondents feel isolated & disconnected from their community

29.03% of respondents do not take part in social activities

Respect and Social Inclusion

Older people in the Borough feel heard and have a say in decision making on things that affect their lives.

What you said:

"More regular inter-generational activities"

"Social isolation is common"

"Older people love going out together, a bus run, walk in the park or going to their local community centre. Even simple connections with neighbours help"

"Most people in our communities respect and care about those who are older"

"We should find more ways to encourage people to connect and look out for their neighbours"

25.81% of respondents agree that older people are consulted by public, voluntary & private organisations on ways to serve them better

35.48% of respondents agree that facilities have helpful & courteous staff trained to respond to older people



Civic Participation and Employment

Older people in the Borough can access work and volunteering opportunities that they want.

What you said:

"Retraining opportunities ... such as in new technologies"

"Networks and organisations should be available for everyone to find easily."

70.97% of respondents feel that they have time and can make a difference

6.45% of respondents agree that there is good employment support available for older workers

Communication and Information

Older people in the Borough are able to stay connected via an effective communication system.

What you said:

"Many over 65's do not have a computer or smart phone"

"Poor rural broadband is a major issue for a lot of people"

"Due to my participation in community groups I receive useful information which I use to help my neighbours"

"Information is there ... although in different places"

25.58% of respondents agree that there is an effective communication system that reaches community residents

69.36% of respondents agree that a coordinated group approach to signposting to services is needed

Community and Health Services

Older people in the Borough have opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing and have access to appropriate health, social care and wellbeing services.

What you said:

"More communication about services available"

"Public transport can be difficult in rural areas"

"There are many elderly who suffer from loneliness & depression"

"Hard for older people without their own transport to access facilities"

"Give funding to established groups who are making a difference in the areas most needed"

35.48% of respondents agree that health and community service facilities are safe and fully accessible for older people

75.81% of respondents take good care of themselves and rate their health and well-being as good



An Age-friendly world is a place that enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities. It is a place that treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy to stay connected to those around you and those you love. It is a place that helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages. It is a place that helps those who can no longer look after themselves to live with dignity and enjoyment. Many cities and communities are already taking active steps towards becoming more age-friendly'.

(World Health Organization)

Have your say:

To ensure we are inclusive in developing the Age Friendly Programme we want to get your thoughts.

Contact us on:

Age.friendly@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

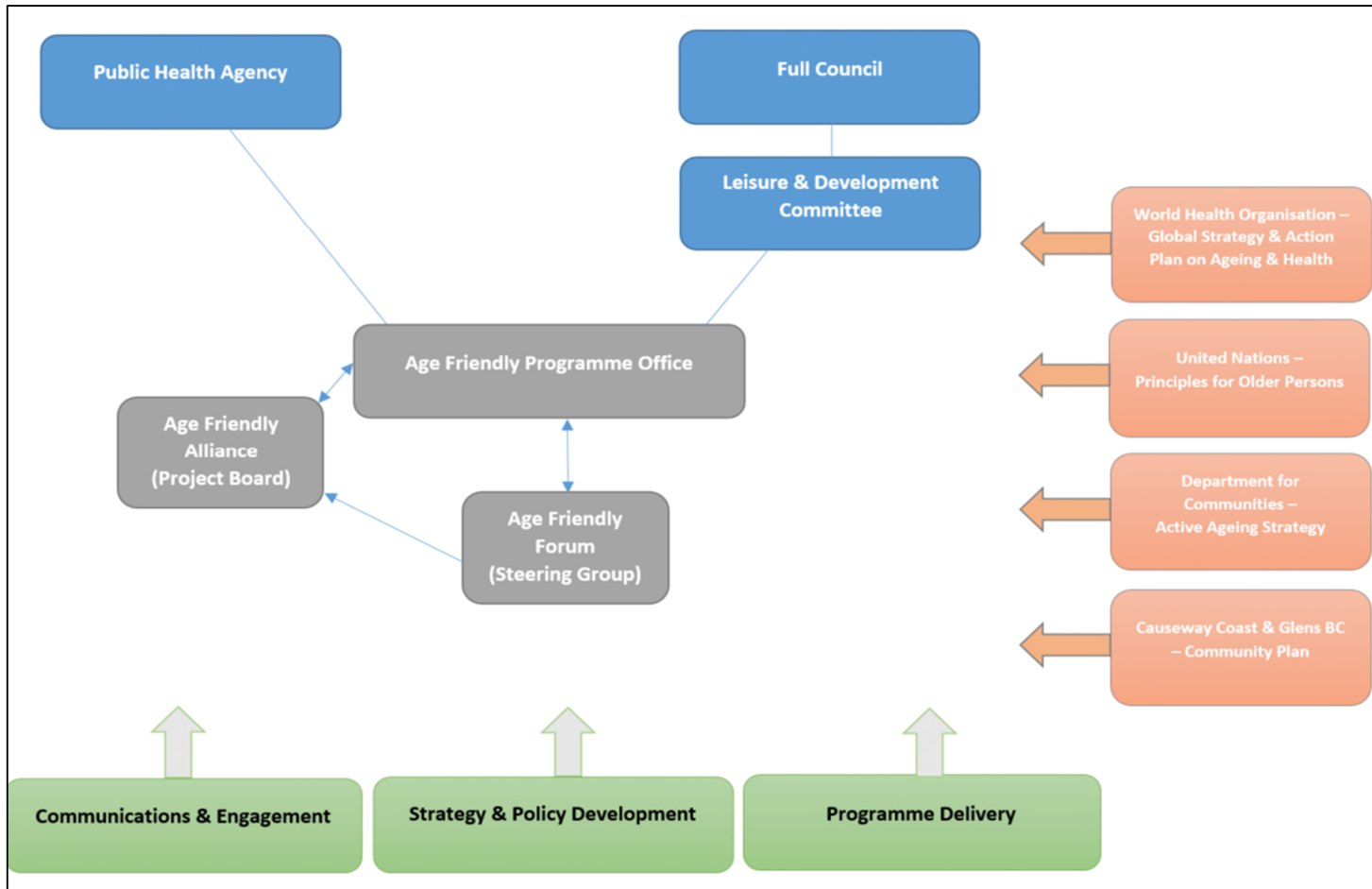


Age Friendly
CAUSEWAY



ANNEX B

Age Friendly Programme Structure



Age-Friendly Alliance

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Age-Friendly Alliance is a strategic intervention under the Health & Wellbeing theme of 'A Better Future Together' – Delivery Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan 2017 – 2030. Key outcomes outlined in the community plan will be that:

- People of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing;
- People of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will have increased opportunities to participate in social and creative activity.

The purpose of the Age-Friendly Alliance is to create an environment where the issues for older people are identified and action taken to embed the key strategic issues identified within the community plan.

The Age-Friendly Alliance will place older people and their interests at the heart of decision-making to develop an Age-Friendly Strategy and action plan, utilising a co-production approach that engages a range of stakeholders and is underpinned by a rights-based approach and utilises the eight WHO themes for Age-Friendly cities and communities.

Year 1 of the Age-Friendly Alliance will be the developmental phase. During this year the Age-Friendly Alliance will act to purposefully drive forward the development and implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

Role and Purpose of Age-Friendly Alliance

The purpose of the Age-Friendly Alliance will be strategy development and implementation, utilising a co-production approach and engaging a range of stakeholders.

Representation will be from older people themselves via the Chairperson of the Age-Friendly Forum, partner representatives and other age-related and Age-Friendly partners and bodies who have the knowledge, experience, expertise and skill to:

- Provide advice and support on all aspects for the development and implementation of a 3–5 year Age-Friendly Strategy and action plan;
- Encourage and strengthen links between the Alliance activities and other key partner organisations and facilitate new collaborative opportunities, where appropriate;
- Champion Age-Friendly and healthy ageing issues to raise awareness within their respective organisations;
- Establish a baseline by mapping current Age-Friendly provisions and assets and identify Gaps against the WHO Age-Friendly criteria.



- Initiate time-bound, thematic sub-groups of the Alliance as and when required.
- Utilise a community development approach to engage older people and older people's organisations, to raise awareness and interest in the issues affecting older people.
- Explore opportunities for resource integration to support delivery of shared outcomes and ensure there is no duplication;
- Assist in developing opportunities to sustain age-related key projects and identify opportunities to continually improve the age-friendliness of our community.

Impact of the Age-Friendly Alliance

The Alliance will measure its impact by:

- Creating an effective Age-Friendly network and structure of older people, age-related interest parties and older people's organisations to:
 - Engage in meaningful dialogue to identify older people's issues and concerns
 - Be the voice and active champions of older people;
 - Influence decision makers
 - Share information and best practice
 - Take part in and engage with consultations, baseline assessments and research.
- Development of a 3-5 year Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens area.
- Raise the profile of Age-Friendly and healthy ageing issues across organisations within the Causeway Coast and Glens area.
- Older people and older people's groups feeling supported and that they are 'involved' in decision that affect them.
- Continual improvement against the 8 domains of the WHO Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.
- Clear communication channels for older persons issues to be raised at a strategic level.
- Examples of joint working and partnership working.

Member Obligations

Each member agency shall do everything in their power to ensure the full and effective implementation of the priorities of the Age-Friendly Alliance. All members shall accept the following duties and responsibilities in connection with the project:

- Provide all reasonable assistance for the development, co-ordination and implementation of a 3-5 year Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan.
- Assume responsibilities for the delivery of agreed elements of the project allocated to them in the project work plan, the communication plan or any additional activities as may be otherwise agreed.
- Provide all necessary input to work strands, thematic groups, information and data at such times as is reasonably requested.
- Allocate budget / resources to agreed elements of the project allocated to them in the project work plan.





Membership of the Age-Friendly Alliance

Representatives should currently be working on key older people's strategies/initiatives or with older people's organisations or have an interest in improving services for older people.

The proposed membership* of the Alliance will comprise of representatives from the following organisations:

- CC&G BC Elected Members
- CC&G BC Senior staff
- Age NI
- HSCNI
- WHSCT
- NHSCT
- PSNI
- Causeway Chamber
- Libraries NI
- NRC
- NWRC
- Linking Generations NI

Alliance members will be senior operational representatives from their host organisations, who will be expected to actively participate and to provide feedback to their host organisations.

*List not exhaustive and is subject to change through addition of new members or removal through agreement.

Frequency of Meetings

Alliance Members will commit to personally attend quarterly meetings and may send an alternative representative from their organisation, where they are unable to attend personally.

Further meetings to discuss particular issues, on which further advice and guidance is required, may be convened as and when required.

Officials of other organisations may be asked to attend to assist with discussions on any matter, as and when required.

Chairing and Secretariat Arrangements

The Chair of the Alliance will be determined by the Alliance Members.

Responsibility for arranging meetings and distribution of Agendas will be the Age-Friendly Co-ordinator.





A minimum of 50% members of the Alliance will be in attendance for the meeting to be deemed quorate.

The notes of the Alliance will be circulated to all members in advance of meetings. It is the responsibility of each member to update their respective organisations on a regular basis on the progress of the Alliance.

Conflicts of Interest

Conflict of Interests will be a standing item on the group's agenda and all members will be asked to declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest

Confidentiality

The information exchanged between members of the Alliance will be treated as confidential. This mainly concerns studies that have been made available to one of the parties in the context of the project concerning methods, know how, files or any other type of document labelled confidential. This information can only be used by Project Partners in accordance with the provisions in this agreement.

Alliance member organisations commit to taking measures so that all staff members carrying out the work respect the confidential nature of the information, and do not disseminate it, or pass it on to third parties or use it without prior written consent of the Lead Partner that provided the information. The Alliance member organisations commit to taking the same measures to maintain the confidential nature of the information, as they would do should it concern their own confidential information.

Communication and Publicity

The Alliance shall implement jointly the communication plan towards potential beneficiaries and towards the general public in accordance with the applicable laws of information and publicity measures.

No Legal Partnership

Nothing in this agreement is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any legal partnership or joint venture between any of the parties, constitute any party the agent of another party, nor authorise any party to make commitments for or on behalf of any other party.

It is not intended to create a legal partnership. This agreement sets out the manner in which the Alliance intend to co-operate to ensure the delivery of the project.

Access to Information

In the event that the Alliance member organisations may be subject to the requirements of FOI legislation, each party shall assist and co-operate with the others to enable the relevant party to comply with the information disclosure requirements imposed on it by FOI.





The parties agree and acknowledge that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council shall be responsible for determining in its absolute discretion whether the confidential nature of the information of the disclosing party held by or on its own behalf:

- is exempt from disclosure under FOI legislation
- is to be disclosed in response to a request for information

If CCGBC decides it is obliged to disclose information in response to such requests for information, it shall use its reasonable endeavours to notify and seek objections to disclosing party of that decision before disclosure.

Data Protection

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council takes its data protection responsibilities very seriously. It will ensure that any personal information supplied to it in the course of this project is dealt with in a way that complies with current data protection law and General Data Protection Regulations.

Review and Assessment

The Age-Friendly Alliance will periodically review its own terms of reference to ensure it is achieving the required objectives.

