



Title of Report:	Review of Village Plans
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 November 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Improvement & Innovation
Outcome	The Council facilitates towns and villages in the Borough to continue to provide quality environments which evolve to meet the needs of their citizens, businesses and visitors to them
Lead Officer	Head of Prosperity & Place

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£30,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1112 / 30032
Staffing Costs	Officer time

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

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 inform members of the proposal to update the Borough's current Village Plans and develop two new Village Plans.

2.0 Background

The Causeway Coast and Glens area as a whole is emerging from COVID disruption and is now navigating through the Cost-of-Living Crisis. The rural parts of the Borough require an integrated approach, at village level, to assist villages and their surrounding areas to realise their potential and continue to provide quality environments which evolve to meet the needs of their citizens, businesses and visitors.

Refreshing and developing new Village Plans provides an opportunity to enable and encourage rural people and community groups to become involved in the development of their own local action plans. The plans should provide a needs-based strategic framework to co-ordinate specific development actions. The plans will inform Council, potential funders and the village's communities what specific activities/interventions would be most beneficial to their respective village.

3.0 Current Situation

Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency (NISRA) classifies villages as having a settlement population of 1,000 or more and under 2,250 persons. On review of the villages across the Borough, the following 10 villages fall within these guidelines:

Villages	Population (2011 census) ¹	Existing Village Plan	Update/New Plan
1. Ballykelly	2103	Yes	Yes
2. Bushmills	1292	Yes	No
3. Castlerock	1287	Yes	No
4. Cloughmills	1309	Yes	Yes
5. Cushendall	1276	Yes	Yes
6. Dunloy	1215	No	Yes
7. Garvagh	1274	Yes	Yes
8. Greysteel	1454	Yes	Yes
9. Kilrea	1679	No	Yes
10. Rasharkin	1114	Yes	Yes

Based on NISRA's guidelines, there are six villages that require their 2018 Village Plans to be updated and two villages that require new plans. Bushmills does not require a Village Plan as this is being covered by the regeneration plans for the area within the Growth Deal. Also, Castlerock Community Association (CCA) recently completed a new four-year Village Plan for the local area.

The need exists to procure specialist support to carry out a review and establish the position of the existing plans, facilitate village consultations, and update/develop eight Village Plans (including Action Plans).

¹ 2021 Census population figures are unavailable.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council that officers proceed to procure specialist external support to complete the upgrade of six Village Plans and develop two new Village Plans, at an approximate cost of £30,000.