

Title of Report:	Community Development Strategy 2023-26
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 December 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy, Active & Engaged Communities
Outcome	The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Community Development Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£439,321
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1059
Staffing Costs	n/a

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:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date: Nov 23
	EQIA Required and Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date: Nov 23
	RNA Required and Completed:	<u>Yes/No</u>	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: Nov 23
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present a Draft Community Development Strategy for the period 2023-26 for approval.

2.0 Background

The Department for Communities (DfC) provides annual funding to District Councils through a Community Support Programme (CSP) ‘to strengthen local communities, increase community participation and promote social inclusion through the stimulation and support of community groups, community activity and local advice services’.

The CSP funding can be utilised for staff, grants, capacity building and generalist advice, and is matched by a Council contribution. The DfC contribution towards community support equates to approximately 36% of spend.

The Community Development function within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is delivered by a staff team comprising of a Community Development Manager, two area based Community Development Officers, a Community Facilities Development Officer and an area based Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator.

In March 2020 Council approved a Community Development Strategy which shaped the direction of this area of work for a 3 year period from 2020-2023.

Officers have carried out a refresh of the Strategy to review how the actions undertaken contributed towards achieving the strategic outcomes and to make any necessary updates to reflect the changing environment and guide how Council provides community development support during the 3-year period from 2023-2026.

Community development enables people to work collectively to bring about social change in the communities in which they live or are a part of. Community can be defined by geography, identity or interest and it is this broad definition of community that this Strategy relates to.

The Draft Strategy sets high level strategic outcomes for the next 3 years and projects that the Community Development service area will undertake to achieve these outcomes. An interim Action Plan was developed for 2023-24 to guide the work of the service area, and this Action Plan will be reviewed and adapted annually.

3.0 The Strategy

Officers reviewed the activities undertaken through the previous 3-year Strategy and engaged with a range of stakeholders to refresh the Strategy and develop an action plan for the next 3 years. The following approaches were taken:

- Structured interviews with 14 community groups currently in receipt of Council grants.
- Reflection sessions – 2 sessions with recipient of Community Festivals Fund.
- Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and Sustainable Food Programme.
- Log of issues and support needs from ongoing engagement with community groups.
- Funding Needs Survey – 50 respondents.
- Survey of Community Facility Providers – 38 respondents.
- Review of Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2023 findings.
- Review of PeacePlus DEA consultation.

3.1 Key Engagement Findings Summary

Issues that the sector is addressing in our communities:

- Loneliness and social isolation.

- Cost of living crisis, fuel poverty, financial worries.
- Increased housing costs severe lack of social housing.
- Mental health and wellbeing.
- Physical health and wellbeing.
- Youth provision.
- Creating welcoming communities for new arrivals, refugees and people seeking asylum.
- Apathy and lack of engagement in community activity.

Challenges that the sector is facing:

- Rising operating costs and funding not increasing in line.
- Increased pressure – more people needing services.
- Volunteer and staff burn out.
- Succession planning - reliance on one or two key committee members.
- Gate keeping on committees – difficult to create space for new people and ideas.
- Still not back to full capacity since Covid.
- Risk of losing experienced staff due to insecurity of funding; wages for those working in the sector not reflective of the roles; underpaid compared to other sectors.
- Don't feel as if they have an influence on decision making locally.
- Disconnect between local groups operating within their own community.

What should Council be doing to support the sector?

- supporting the community infrastructure to do the work on the ground & be responsive to emerging needs.
- Continue to fund running costs- increase in line with cost of living increases.
- Succession planning for volunteers.
- Build links between groups and Council – who does what in Council.
- More funding to enable groups to provide social well-being activities.
- Continue crucial one to one support for groups from officers.
- More networking and connecting opportunities for support and learning.
- Support the development of intra community relationships and area based collaborations.
- Seeding grant for new groups.
- Local people having an influence and voice in decision making and civic life.

3.2 Outcomes

While there have been many emerging issues over the past 3 years, not least the impact of the Covid pandemic and the Cost of Living Crisis, the broad outcomes of Council's Community Development Strategy remain as relevant as ever and the focus is on how we best support the community and voluntary sector to effectively respond to emerging and existing community needs in an ever more challenging environment. Feedback on the 3 outcomes from the 2020-23 Community Development Strategy (A Skilled and Confident Community, A Connected Community, A Fair and Inclusive

Community) indicated that they were generally still relevant. One change was made to the first outcome to replace 'Skilled' and Confident Communities with 'Resourced' and Confident Communities; resources referring to skills, people and finances. It is proposed that the 3 Outcomes are as follows:

1. Resourced and Confident Communities.
2. Connected Communities.
3. Fair & Inclusive Communities.

3.3 Workstreams

The following work streams have been identified to achieve the outcomes and contribute towards the delivery of Council's priorities.

1. Resourced & Confident Communities

- i. Developmental support to new and existing organisations and promotion of good practice.
- ii. Financial assistance towards core costs of community development organisations.
- iii. Funding guidance and support to develop fundraising strategies.
- iv. Promotion of Council community centres as hubs for connecting and participation to promote health and well-being.
- v. Promotion of good practice in community operated centres.
- vi. Promotion of volunteering and support for succession planning.

2. Connected Communities

- i. Communication and sharing of information and opportunities to support and promote the community and voluntary sector.
- ii. Communities connecting and sharing good practice and learning.
- iii. Connecting Communities to Council and promoting good community engagement in Council.
- iv. Addressing Loneliness and promoting Social Connections.
- v. Supporting Community Festivals and Events.

3. Fair & Inclusive Communities

- i. Provision of Generalist Advice Service
- ii. Area based approaches to tackling disadvantage and social and economic inequality through Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships
- iii. Co-ordination of Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group and delivery of Action Plan
- iv. Social Supermarket Support Programme
- v. Promotion of community participation and active citizenship, including participatory budgeting
- vi. Building capacity for advocacy and lobbying

3.4 Budget

The budget for Community Development delivery in 2023-24 is broken down as follows:

Area of expenditure	Council Contribution	DfC Contribution	Total
Community Support Staff	£177,506.87	£60,256.13	£237,763.00
Grants to voluntary groups	£121,295.00	£55,886.00	£177,181.00
Capacity building and training	£5,275.00	£5,000.00	£10,275.00
Generalist Advice Provision	£135,244.00	£111,719.19	£246,963.19
Advice - Neighbourhood Renewal Limavady		£18,139.98	£18,139.98
Advice - Welfare Reform Extension Face to Face		£62,257.74	£62,257.74
Advice - Welfare Reform Extension Tribunal Representation		£25,600.00	£25,600.00
Social Supermarket Funding		£59,072.98	£59,072.98
Total	£439,320.87	£397,932.02	£837,252.89

Following Council approval, the Draft Strategy will be issued for a period of public consultation of 8 weeks and a final Strategy will then be brought back to Council for approval. The Draft Community Development Strategy 2023-26 is attached at **Annex A**.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council the approval of the Draft Community Development Strategy 2023-26.



DRAFT

Updated

**Community Development
Strategy**

2023-2026



Contents

1. Introduction
 2. What is Community Development?
 3. Context
 - 3.1 Strategic Context
 - 3.2 Area Profile
 - 3.3 Scope of Community and Voluntary Sector in Causeway Coast and Glens
 - 3.4 Community Facilities in Causeway Coast and Glens
 4. Report Cards for delivery of 2020-23 Community Development Strategy
 5. Engagement Findings
 6. Outcomes
 7. Implementation of the Strategy
 8. Action Plan 2023-24
- Appendix 1: Community Development National Occupational Standards (CD NOS)
- Appendix 2: Strategic Context – linkages with Regional and Local Strategies
- Appendix 3: Most deprived Super Output Areas in Causeway Coast and Glens LGD (NIMDM 2017)
- Appendix 4: Concentration of Multiple Deprivation in Causeway Coast and Glens
- Appendix 5: Map of electoral wards in Causeway Coast and Glens
- Appendix 6: Summary of Grants Awarded 2020-23

1. Introduction

Council's Community Development Strategy guides how Council invests in strengthening local communities, promoting social inclusion and increasing community participation throughout Causeway Coast and Glens.

Improving the quality of life for our citizens and visitors is the key focus of Council's Corporate Strategy¹. We know that involving our local community in this work is essential and we are aware of the leadership that should come from Council to champion and advocate for Causeway Coast and Glens.

Community development enables people to work collectively to bring about social change in the communities in which they live or are a part of. Community can be defined by geography, identity or interest and it is this broad definition of community that this Strategy relates to.

This Strategy has been developed by Council's Community Development Team by engaging with and listening to a range of stakeholders including the community and voluntary sector, elected members, internal Council departments, and our statutory partners to help us understand the needs and emerging issues in our communities and to shape the direction of this area of work over the next 3 years.

Our Strategy uses an Outcomes Based Accountability approach in line with the Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens and underpinned by the values and standards for community development as contained in the Community Development National Occupational Standards (draft update 2023²).

Council's Community Development Strategy was developed for a 3 year period from 2020-2023. In 2022 we carried out a refresh of the Strategy to review how the actions undertaken contributed towards achieving the strategic outcomes and to make any necessary updates to reflect the changing environment and guide how we provide community development support during the 3 year period from 2023-2026.

1

https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/Appendix_Draft_Corporate_Strategy_Version_5_18.1.21.pdf

² Final draft Community Development National Occupational Standards 2023 <https://www.i-develop-cld.org.uk/mod/folder/view.php?id=4881>

Background

The community development work we undertake in Council is driven by financial assistance from the Department for Communities through its Community Support Programme. The Department's "Beyond the Centre" document, (2000) and its Community Support Programme together set the current policy direction for the community development support work of councils.

"Beyond the Centre" defines community support as "*the processes and the activities through which local authorities stimulate and enable groups of people to express their needs, support them through collective action and assist them with projects and schemes as part of the overall objective of encouraging active citizenship*".

The aim of the Department for Communities Community Support Programme is 'to strengthen local communities, increase community participation and promote social inclusion through the stimulation and support of community groups, community activity and local advice services'.

While there have been many changing circumstances over the past 3 years, not least the impact of the Covid pandemic and the Cost of Living Crisis, the broad outcomes of Council's Community Development Strategy remain as relevant as ever and the focus is on how we best support the community and voluntary sector to effectively respond to emerging and existing community needs in an ever more challenging environment. An Action Plan has been developed that details projects that the Community Development service area will undertake in year 1 (2023-24) to achieve these, and this Action Plan will be reviewed and adapted annually.

2. What is Community Development?

Community development enables people to work collectively together in a structured and co-ordinated way to bring about positive social change to achieve equality, social justice, climate justice and human rights. This long-term process starts with people's own experience and enables communities to work together to:

- identify the needs and actions they wish to address
- plan and take collective action
- build on and strengthen their confidence, skills and knowledge
- challenge unequal power relationships
- promote social justice, equality and participation

in order to improve the quality of their own lives, the communities in which they live and societies of which they are a part.

Community development³ is underpinned by a set of values which distinguish it from other, sometimes related, activities in the community. These values are at the core of community development and underpin each of the standards. The values are:

- 1 Social justice and equality
- 2 Anti-discrimination
- 3 Community empowerment
- 4 Collective action
- 5 Working and learning together

The Community Development National Occupational Standards clearly outline the skills, values and processes required for effective and appropriate community development practice. There are **6 Key Areas** within the Community Development National Occupational Standards (see Appendix 1 for full detail):

Key Area 1: Understand and practise community development (core to all)

Key Area 2: Understand and engage with communities

Key Area 3: Group work and collective action

Key Area 4: Collaborative and cross-sectoral working

Key Area 5: Community Learning for Social Change

Key Area 6: Governance and organisational development

The Community Development NOS have been used as a guiding framework in the development of this Strategy to help shape the outcomes and the activities to be undertaken as well as how they will be implemented and monitored.

³ Final draft Community Development National Occupational Standards 2023 <https://www.i-develop-cld.org.uk/mod/folder/view.php?id=4881>

3. Context

3.1 Strategic Context

Improving the quality of life for our citizens and visitors is the key focus of **Council's Corporate Strategy**. Council has identified 5 Strategic Priorities in order to achieve this:

1. Cohesive Leadership
2. Local Economy
3. Improvement and Innovation
4. Healthy, Active and Engaged Communities
5. Climate Change and Our Environment

There is a commitment in Council's Corporate Strategy that citizens and communities will be centrally involved in Council's planning and decision making processes. Taking a community development approach greatly contributes to achieving the priorities of the Strategy. Strategic Priority number 4 is the priority that the Community Development Strategy most aligns with.

The **Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens** is the key over-arching strategic framework for the area and involves partnership working at many different levels. Meaningful partnership and collaborative working lie at the heart of community planning and the Community Plan sets out a clear focus on where the Partnership wants to be by 2030. Of the 3 key population outcomes of the Community Plan the key outcome that this Community Development Strategy contributes to is:

Outcome 3: A Healthy Safe Community.

The table below details the Intermediate Outcomes and the Delivery Actions that the Community Development Strategy will contribute towards:

Population Outcome:	A Healthy Safe Community – All people of Causeway Coast and Glens will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect and supports everyone to live together
Intermediate Outcome 1:	All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental well-being
Intermediate Outcome 3:	All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens can live independently as far as possible and access support services when they need it
Intermediate Outcome 5:	The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships

Delivery Plan Action 3	Continue to develop the Loneliness Network for Causeway Coast and Glens to work together to increase opportunities for socialisation and to reduce the risk of and tackle loneliness across the generations.
Delivery Plan Action 4:	Continue to implement and support Anti-Poverty Interventions which tackle food, fuel and financial poverty and respond to local need with a particular emphasis on vulnerable communities.
Delivery Plan Action 12:	Provision of a borough wide inclusive, participative engagement platform - Community Engagement Platform to connect citizens' voices to local decision-making bodies, including Youth Voice.
Delivery Plan Action 14:	Organisations working collaboratively to provide development opportunities and Support to the Community and Voluntary Sector on a borough wide basis.

There are a number of regional and local policies which we have taken into consideration in developing this Strategy so that proposed interventions complement or provide additionality to existing relevant strategies.

The Strategies that we considered relevant at a regional level are as follows:

- Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21
- Department for Communities Building Inclusive Communities Strategy 2020-25
- People & Place: A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal (2003) (currently being reviewed as the People & Place Strategy)
- Advising, Supporting, Empowering: A Strategy for the delivery of Generalist Advice Services in N Ireland (2015-20)
- The Department for Social Development "Beyond the Centre" document (2000)
- Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future - A Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2012
- The Executive Office Good Relations Strategic Document - Together: Building A United Community (TBUC) 2013
- Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland (2021)
- Making Life Better – A Whole System Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-23

We identified the following Strategies as relevant at a local level:

- A Better Future Together - A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017-2030
- CC&G Borough Council Corporate Strategy 2021-25
- CC&G Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Action Plans (Coleraine & Limavady)
- CC&G Anti-poverty Framework and Action Plan
- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Good Relations Strategy 2023-26

- ❑ CC&G PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan
- ❑ CC&G Policing and Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, Strategic Plan and Action Plan 2019-2024
- ❑ CC&G Borough Council Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy ‘Open Doors to Culture’ 2016-2021
- ❑ CC&G Borough Council Recovery & Renewal – an economic strategy for the Causeway Coast and Glens 2020

Full detail of the relevant strategic themes and outcomes within these strategies and how this Community Development Strategy links with these is considered in more detail at **Appendix 2**.

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on all aspects of society. The community and voluntary sector mobilised immediately to support the most vulnerable in our communities and were at the forefront of the nationwide response to Covid, including prescription runs, food deliveries and mental health support. The longer-term effects of the pandemic are still being felt, particularly increased isolation and financial concerns.

Many organisations lost long standing volunteers who had to isolate during the pandemic due to their age or health conditions. A survey carried out by the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) in September 2020 revealed that over half (50.4%) of organisations acknowledged that between 76-100% of their volunteers had been unable to volunteer because of Covid-19. Whilst every sector experienced a noticeable impact on their income, the voluntary and community sector lost vital fundraising income and funding due to the global pandemic.

Nearly three quarters (73%) of organisations stated that services or activities had been stopped due to Covid-19, with over a quarter (25.3%) only able to deliver between 1-25% of their normal services or activities.

Cost of Living Crisis

Voluntary and community organisations are also on the front line of the cost of living crisis supporting people and communities, all the while facing rising demand for services, falling income and rising operational costs. NICVA carried out a series of engagement sessions in early 2023 and produced a report– The Cost of Living Crisis Tough Times, Smart Solutions (NICVA Report July 2023) and reported that the main concerns facing the community and voluntary sector were:

- Financial Pressures facing the sector in the form of rising bills, particularly the rising cost of fuel and energy. Lots of groups are struggling to keep offices or community hubs open, this is leading to them reducing opening times and, ultimately, the services they can realistically provide.

- Increased pressure on the sector - more people need services when funding is at an all-time low and the pressure on staff is immense.
- Lack of long term and substantial funding meaning that organisations cannot plan ahead and cannot offer long term employment to staff with the skills and experience to make a difference.

As the cost-of-living crisis continues, food banks in Northern Ireland are under increasing demand. Food banks in the Trussell Trust network in Northern Ireland have seen the highest levels of need ever, with the number of parcels distributed more than double the amount distributed in Northern Ireland 5 years ago. There is a 25% increase in the number of families using food bank in the network in Northern Ireland for the first time compared to the same period in 2021/22. Furthermore, this significant growth in need is even higher for children with the number of parcels provided for children more than doubling (156%) over the five-year period between 2017/18 and 2022/23. Food banks spent almost twice as much on food as they did the previous year April–September 2022 to meet the need they are seeing amongst people facing financial hardship.

The University of York’s Social Policy Unit⁴ forecast a fuel poverty level of 71.7% for Northern Ireland in January 2023— the worst of all the UK regions, a stark contrast to the 18% recorded four years ago and significantly worse than the UK average of 55.8%. A House of Commons Library Research Briefing, “Rising cost of living in the UK” (published 2nd June 2023) notes that food prices have been rising sharply over the past year and were 19.0% higher in April 2023 compared with a year before⁵ . For working-age households dependent on state benefits, meeting the cost of the minimum food basket would require 33% to 45% of household income.⁶

3.2 Area Profile⁷

Causeway Coast and Glens contains the Main Hubs of Coleraine and Limavady and the Local Hubs of Ballycastle and Ballymoney. There are eight Towns and 25 Villages throughout the Borough, along with 34 Small Settlements. The borough comprises of 40 wards and the seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) of Bann, Ballymoney, Benbradagh, Causeway, Coleraine, Limavady and The Glens.

Six settlements have more than 5,000 residents (i.e. Ballymoney, Coleraine, Portrush, Portstewart, Limavady and Ballycastle). Of the 72 SOAs in the Borough, 46% are designated as rural (n33), 44% as urban (n32) and 10% (n7) mixed urban/rural.

On Census Day 2021, the usual resident population of Causeway Coast and Glens was 141,746.

⁴ <https://www.york.ac.uk/media/business-society/research/CPAG-Poverty-173-rising-fuel-poverty.pdf>

⁵ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9428/#:~:text=Increases%20in%20the%20costs%20of,%2C%20a%2045%2Dyear%20high>

⁶ “What is the cost of a healthy food basket in Northern Ireland in 2022?” (May 2023) <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/Food%20basket%20NI%20Report.pdf>

⁷ Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Socio-Economic Profile: PeacePlus Programme

On Census Day 2021, 51% of the Borough's population was female (n 71,898) and 49% was male (n69,848).⁸

The most recent figures indicate that the area has an older population, with 19% aged 65+ years compared to the NI average of 17%. This age group has seen a 4% increase since the 2011 Census.

There are 57,576 households (7.5% of the NI total; +7.2%) in Causeway Coast and Glens, with the majority being 1 (30%) or 2 (32%) person households, aligned to wider demographic trends.

The Economic Activity Rate (70%) and Employment Rate (68.8%) for 16-64 year olds are below that of the NI average (73% and 70.2% respectively)⁹ and the Borough has a high proportion of long-term unemployed (41% against a NI average of 33%).

There is a higher proportion of the 16-64 year olds with no qualifications (14.3%) within Causeway Coast and Glens, in comparison to the NI average (11.9%). The Council area has a lower proportion of the working age population with NVQ Level 4 and above (41.2%) than the NI average (42.1%).¹⁰

The majority (n127,171; 89.72%) of the Causeway Coast and Glens population was born in NI (compared to the NI average of 86.5%), followed by rest of the UK (n5,991; 5.5%) and Republic of Ireland (n1,931; 1.36%).¹¹

On Census Day 2021, 46% of the NI population identified as Catholic and 43% identified as Protestant. Within Causeway Coast and Glens, 40% of residents stated they had been brought up in the Catholic religion (n 56,862) and 51% in the Protestant and other Christian religion (n72,530).

The study area has the greatest proportion of the population reporting they are from a white ethnic background (n139,696; 98.6%). Although numbers are small, those from minority ethnic backgrounds are most likely to be mixed race (n721; 0.5%) and Chinese (n313; 0.2%).¹²

During the period 2016/17 to 2018/19 around 19% of the Borough's population were in Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs (BHC)) and 22% were in Relative Poverty (BHC).

The most recent official figure for fuel poverty in NI was measured by the Northern Ireland 2016 House Condition Survey and set the NI rate at 22%. The Borough had the third highest fuel poverty level in NI with an estimated 27.1% of its 57,200 households in fuel poverty in 2016 (5.1% above the NI average).

Causeway Coast and Glens has the 4th highest proportion of children aged under 16 in low income families for both Relative and Absolute measures at 20.1% and 15.7% respectively of all the local authorities in NI¹³

⁸ NISRA, (2022). Census 2021, MS-A10b: Broad age bands and sex (area percentage)

⁹ LFS, (2021). Table 1.13b: Labour market structure and qualification level by district council area, ages 16 to 64, 2021

¹⁰ LFS, (2021). Table 1.13b: Labour market structure and qualification level by district council area, ages 16 to 64, 2021

¹¹ NISRA, (2022). Census 2021, MS-A16b: Country of birth

¹² NISRA, (2022). Census 2021, MS-B01: Ethnic group

¹³ Children in low income families: local area statistics (DWP/HMRC March 2022). <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics>

Within the Borough there are three Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs). Two NRAs are located in Coleraine – Coleraine East and Coleraine Churchlands. Coleraine East spans 12 Small Areas and covers Ballysally and Millburn (within University and Ballysally wards). Coleraine Churchlands spans nine Small Areas and covers the Heights and Killowen areas (within Cuts, Central and Churchlands wards). The Limavady NRA spans nine Small Areas within the Greystone, Coolessan and Roeside wards.

Of the 72 Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Causeway Coast and Glens, 13 (18%) rank in the top 20% on the NIMDM index. The 10 most deprived SOAs in the Borough on each domain are included at Appendix 3. Three of the Borough's SOAs - Greystone, Ballysally 1 and Coolessan are within the 10% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. Thirteen of the Borough's SOAs are within the 20% most deprived areas.

Eighty percent of the Borough's population reported their general health to be Good or Very Good. This was equivalent to the NI average, ranking 5th out of 11 LGDs.¹⁴

The majority of respondents (80%) to the NI Safe Community Survey from Causeway, Coast and Glens reported that fear of crime had a low effect on their quality of life (+1% on the previous year's results).¹⁵ The Borough ranked 1st highest out of the 11 LGDs on this indicator.

Only 3% of Causeway, Coast and Glens residents felt that there was a high level of ASB locally. People using/dealing drugs (35%) and littering (21%) were considered to be the greatest problems.¹⁶

Twenty percent of over 16s in Causeway Coast and Glens reported feeling lonely at least some of the time, ranking 4th out of 11 LGDs.

In 2020/21 90% of the Borough's population engaged in leisure, arts, and cultural activities within the last year, higher than the NI average of 89%.

In 2011, 15% (n16,957) of those aged 16+ living in the Borough reported that they did voluntary work, ranking 5th highest of the LGDs.¹⁷

Eighty-three percent of respondents¹⁸ from the Borough stated they felt a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, slightly lower than the respective NI average. Sense of belonging to NI was slightly higher than the NI average (83% and 82% respectively).

Although higher than the NI average, only 22% of respondents living in Causeway Coast and Glens felt they had influence over local decision-making and 21% felt they had influence over decisions made in NI.

¹⁴ NISRA, (2011). CT0313NI: GENERAL HEALTH BY LONG-TERM HEALTH PROBLEM OR DISABILITY

¹⁵ DoJ, (2019). Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS) 2019/20

¹⁶ DoJ, (2018). Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS) 2017/18

¹⁷ NISRA, (2011). CT0224NI: VOLUNTARY WORK BY AGE BY SEX

¹⁸ NILT 2019-21 dataset

3.3 Scope of Community and Voluntary sector in Causeway Coast and Glens

We estimate that there are over 600 community and voluntary organisations in Causeway Coast and Glens ranging from geographical community groups and residents associations to physical and mental health support groups, older peoples groups, youth clubs, uniformed youth organisations, sports clubs, parent and toddler groups, environmental groups, regeneration groups, festival organisers, historical groups and many more interest and identity based organisations. These organisations range from small groups made up wholly of volunteers to large established organisations with staff employed and income generating streams.

Council holds a Register of Community and Voluntary Organisations; currently there are 380 organisations on the Register and we continue to encourage organisations to register so that they can avail of information that is regularly shared about funding programmes, events, consultations, external funding opportunities, and other useful information. The list of community and voluntary organisations currently registered with Council's Community & Culture section can be viewed at <https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/community-services/community-voluntary-organisations-register>.

Community Associations/Residents Groups and Committees (21%), Culture, Arts and Heritage related organisations (19.5%) and Church/Faith-based organisations (13%) are the three largest types of organisations registered.

The following organisations also provide community development support in Causeway Coast and Glens: Northern Area Community Network (NACN) (formerly North Antrim Community Network), Causeway Rural and Urban Network (CRUN), Building Communities Resource Centre (BCRC) and Supporting Communities. NACN are contracted through DAERA to provide rural support and CRUN and BCRC are funded through DfC's Community Investment Fund. All three networks secure funding for other initiatives in health, community relations etc. Supporting Communities are funded through Housing Executive to provide support to resident's associations and facilitate interagency meetings. There are Volunteer Centres in Limavady and Coleraine that are funded by DfC's Volunteering Strategy and these centres provide training to volunteer involving organisations.

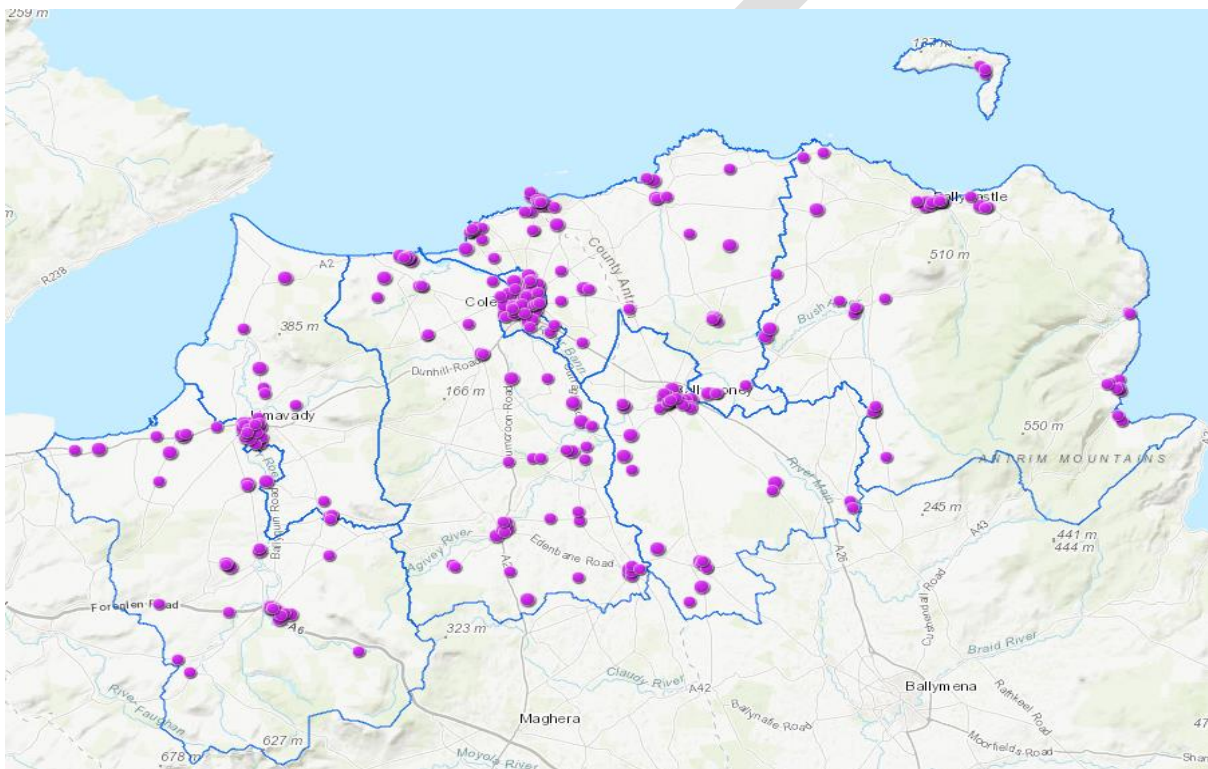
3.4 Community facilities in Causeway Coast and Glens

There are 17 Council owned community centres in the Borough; 5 of these are operated by community groups through a Shared Management Agreement with Council. There are at least a further 50 community facilities provided and operated by community groups across the Borough, to which Council provides a small operating costs grant, in addition to a large number of church halls, cultural halls, sports clubs and other voluntary provided facilities.

Through the Peace IV Programme in 2019 Council undertook a mapping of facilities available for community use in Causeway Coast and Glens. Map 1 shows the distribution of facilities available for community use in the borough. The full results are available on

an interactive map which can be accessed on Councils website: <http://cbcni.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1400630da5144c6dabdf1722d6e8c634>

Council developed a **Strategic Framework for Community Centre Provision (Oct 2016)**¹⁹ to provide an agreed pathway to proactively identify gaps in community centre provision in the Borough and guide Council decision making in relation to capital investment in community centres - both the existing stock of Council owned Centres and also applications from the community/voluntary sector through a previous Capital Grants Programme.



Map 1: Facilities available for community use in Causeway Coast and Glens

4. Looking back at delivery of Community Development Strategy and Action Plan 2020-23

OUTCOME 1: Skilled and Confident Communities 2020-23

What did we do?

- ❑ Co-ordinated support on a DEA basis to CVS Covid response initiatives, including a centralised publicly accessible information hub to enable over 90 organisations to list their support efforts and help in the coordination of support
- ❑ Health & Safety mentor support provided to 5 x community groups operating Council community centres & 18 community owned and operated centres to complete Covid Risk Assessments
- ❑ Set up support was provided to 13 new organisations including start up costs.
- ❑ 75 community organisations received tailored one to one developmental support for community projects
- ❑ 20 grant programmes delivered with 721 grants awarded (347 of these were Covid-19 funding) to a value of £1,252,213 (£697,699 Covid-19 funding) See Appendix 6 for full breakdown)
- ❑ 56 organisations attended one to one funding clinics or received one to one funding support
- ❑ 55 community organisations receiving financial assistance towards operating costs; 78% of these have a community premises
- ❑ 33 training sessions were provided and 478 participants attended
- ❑ 167 unique organisations availed of training at least once during this period
- ❑ 3,060 volunteers engaged with Council supported projects



How well did we do it?

- ❑ 100% of organisations reported that they found the support helpful
- ❑ 88% success rate with grant applications
- ❑ 95% of participants reported that they found the training useful
- ❑ 97% of respondents felt that their knowledge of funding had improved as a result of the support
- ❑ 100% of funders reported increased levels of applications as a result of attending funding fairs
- ❑ Grant recipients reported feeling supported by Council through grant application process
- ❑ 3 year grant awarded and advance grant payments were welcomed

What difference did it make?

- New groups have set up in areas where there had been limited community activity in last few years
- increased capability among groups to respond to needs as they arise
- by securing funding groups are able to deliver an increased level of social activities in community centres
- improved levels of good practice in operating community centres
- 95% of groups funded were able to carry out their full programme of activities
- 90 % groups supported were able to lever in additional funding
- 90% of participants in community centres training will change their practices as a result



Case Study: Balnamore Community Association

The group had been running previously but for various reasons had ceased. A new committee was formed with young parents and they received a seeding grant for start-up costs including hall hire of the Council owned community centre. With support from the CD team they carried out consultation with the community and were supported to apply for a number of funds, to which they were successful including a Lottery Awards for All grant of £10k and a PCSP grant of £999. They also secured a Social Connections Grant from Council and Good Relations funding to run a warm space during the winter months. Two group members attended the full CD training programme and increased their knowledge in a range of areas including good governance, committee roles, good financial practice, community consultation etc. They now have older people attending their hall weekly and a large youth group in the evenings. The group attend the connecting meetings for groups in the Ballymoney area which has allowed them to share learning and experience with other groups in the area and are a great example of how a new group with some support can make a real difference in their area.

Case Studies: Kilrea & District Ulster Scots Society

Members of the group attended one of our Funding Clinics seeking advice on funding for their hall. Traditionally the group ran a very successful Burns Night as well as a number of activities and events during the year. The group were keen to open out further to the community in Kilrea. The Community Development Officer worked with the group to arrange a 'Community Chat & Cuppa' evening to gauge local people's views on the activities they would like to see.

Over 30 local people attended the event and chatted about various activities they would like to see happening in the hall. From this engagement we helped the group to prepare for an application to Lottery Awards for All and they were successful in their application receiving approximately £10k to run their new activities.

OUTCOME 2: Connected Communities [2020-23]

What did we do?

- ❑ 59 connecting events and shared learning opportunities took place with 925 participants
- ❑ Reconnect Programme delivered with DfC Covid recovery monies - 46 organisations received a resource allocation for reconnecting activities, delivered by Northern Area Community Network on behalf of Council
- ❑ 3 x annual Volunteers Week events held to celebrate contribution of volunteers in association with local Volunteer Centres
- ❑ special celebration event held to mark the contribution of community and voluntary organisations to the Covid response
- ❑ Volunteering Policy developed and approved
- ❑ 54 grants awarded to community festivals through the Community Festivals Fund, to a value of £81K (CFF didn't open in 2020-21)
- ❑ 3 x Community Engagement Platform events took place, in association with Community Planning
- ❑ Updated Event Management Guide for Community Festivals produced to include new regulations around H&S and Licences
- ❑ 3 training workshops provided to 57 community festival and event organisers
- ❑ Information about funding, training and Council news regularly shared to 380 community and voluntary organisations
- ❑ CD team collaborated with 7 other Council services to promote good community engagement in Council – Growth Deal, Sport and Well-being, Events, Environmental Resources, Labour Market Partnership, Good Relations, Energy Efficiency.
- ❑ 4 events organised in association with Causeway Loneliness Network



How well did we do it?

- ❑ 100% of participants found the connecting events useful
- ❑ 80% of participants made useful contacts as a result of attending connecting events
- ❑ 95% of recipients found information useful
- ❑ Several organisations noted that they were introduced to other Council departments they may not normally engage with.

What difference did it make?

- After Covid, the funding for events allowed organisations to bring people back out again to interact socially
- Opportunities were created to bring people together to make connections doing something they enjoy
- CFF funding enabled relatively new groups to provide community led festivals which encouraged whole community input and participation. Local people who volunteered shared their skills and abilities when planning and delivering the festival thus building capacity from within.
- Relationships were built between groups and Council services
- Community groups shared learning about a range of initiatives such as mens sheds and warm spaces and connections were made that have continued to flourish.
- Volunteers felt that their contribution was valued

Case Study: Social Connections Grant

The former Social Inclusion Grant was reviewed with the aim of reinvigorating the grant programme considering a reducing number of applications but an evidenced need to support activities that addressed loneliness and isolation. The grant was renamed Social Connections Grant and additional funding was secured through collaboration with the Northern Health & Social Care Trust through the Causeway Coast and Glens Loneliness Network as well as the Causeway GP Federation Multi-Disciplinary Team and Limavady GP Multi-Disciplinary Team. 68 grants to a value of £33K were awarded for activities commencing Feb 2023 right through to March 2024. The grant has attracted applications from groups that would not normally have applied to Council; it has allowed older people's groups to run warm spaces activities and extend luncheon club programmes, all of which have proved a lifeline to allow older people to reconnect after Covid.



Case Study: Roe Valley Community Network

Roe Valley Community Network has been running in Limavady for over 15 years, and the Community Development Officer brings all community groups together each month to share information and tips and to link with each other. The Network alternates around community venues in the former Limavady Council area and this allows participants to visit each other's facilities. This has also proved to be a valuable connecting opportunity for Council services wishing to engage with local community representatives. As a result of this regular networking opportunity, organisations have benefitted from peer support, sharing knowledge, learning and resources as well as avoiding duplication and opening up of opportunities for growth and partnership working. Using the learning from this model, similar connecting meetings have been initiated in the Coleraine and Ballymoney areas and have already proved to be valuable connected platforms.

OUTCOME 3: Fair and Inclusive Communities [2020-23]

What did we do?

- Generalist Advice Service: 105,921 enquiries dealt with, 76% of which related to social security benefits; £12 million of additional annual benefits income levered in.

Generalist Advice Service provision 2020-23	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total	Annual Average
number of enquiries	32,365	38,386	35,170	105,921	35,307
£ additional benefits income levered in	£16,245,796	£12,778,540	£7,214,256	£36,238,592	£12,079,531
% of enquiries benefit related	72.8	76.47	79.7		76

- Neighbourhood Renewal - support and facilitation of 2 NR Partnerships and 14 projects tackling deprivation in Limavady and Coleraine.
- Anti-poverty Stakeholder Steering Group established with 18 community and voluntary sector and statutory partners including food banks, advice centres and charities; Wraparound Support Project supported 122 people who received foodbank services to be referred to and receive other linked supports; Fuel support scheme delivered oil, electricity and gas to 200 households.
- 'Where to Turn', a mixed media communications campaign was developed to raise awareness about vital support services for those facing financial difficulties - social media, webinar, local newspapers, bus shelters and hard copy leaflets.
- Social Supermarket Support Programme funding delivered to 2 social supermarkets to support households who are struggling financially and meet certain criteria, with the opportunity to shop in a reduced cost food shop for a set period of time (usually 3- 6 months) alongside engaging in wraparound support.
- Participatory Budgeting (PB) initiative completed in Bushmills 'Bushmills Community Choice' delivered by Northern Area Community Network (NACN) and Councils Community Development and Good Relations teams. 22 project ideas were put forward; 120 votes were cast and 7 successful bidders received £6,000 between them.
- 'Sharkin Plan It' participatory village planning initiative – delivered by NACN in partnership with Council, Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT), MDT and local organisations. 44 project ideas put forward with 400 people attending a community voting fun day; 21 successful projects delivered.



How well did we do it?

- 100% of community partnerships established within agreed timescales
- 100% of stakeholders reported that they were satisfied with the quality of the engagement by the partnership and that it helped in the delivery of their services
- 93% of people who were provided with information on financial wellbeing services that were satisfied with the information
- 95% of people who were provided with information on financial wellbeing services that felt they were treated well
- 91% of people who were provided with information on financial wellbeing services that felt the advice helped them

What difference did it make?

- More people engaged, people more involved/ more likely to participate in activities and to volunteer
- Community ownership of decision making
- Increased direct food and essential items provision to vulnerable people
- More people in fuel poverty had access to support for fuel over the winter
- People are less isolated, emotionally supported and connected into their community and relevant supports
- Improved food infrastructure
- Peer support to voluntary service deliverers
- Increased collaborations/partnerships that will continue to provide holistic outcomes for those vulnerable in food need
- Increased awareness of local services

Case Study: Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group

“It has been invaluable to be part of a network and partnership where we feel supported and encouraged to deal with the pressures of this last year. The unprecedented need in our community has challenged us all. The regular meetings, while virtual, have been an excellent way to keep in touch and share with the other partners how we are all dealing with these new ways of working under pressure and increased workloads.”Ballycastle Foodbank

Case Study: Sharkin Plan It. Rasharkin

The Sharkin Plan-It process commenced in December 2021, guided by a Community Working Group, and supported the wider community to come together to celebrate the many hidden treasures and assets within the village and surrounding area and to consider the short and long term ideas that could help to make Rasharkin an even better place to live, work, play or learn. The project was hosted by Northern Area Community Network in partnership with a ‘Helping Hands’ group consisting of the local Multi-Disciplinary Social Work Team, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Community Places, Participatory Budgeting Works and Council. The process adopted an innovative approach combining a participatory budgeting and village place shaping process together to animate and support the local community, to consider and action what is most important to them and of benefit to the wider community. At every step, efforts have been purposefully made to reach out to, re-energise and work alongside the local community at a pace directed by them. This was essential in responding to the isolating impacts of Covid-19 on community action. Efforts were made to connect the local community to key community planning and support partners to commence a new conversation about what is possible when projects and services are genuinely co-designed with the local community. A massive 44 bids were submitted and over 300 people cast their votes on Saturday 18th June at the Big Community Lunch and Voting event.

5. Engagement Findings



We reviewed the activities undertaken through the previous 3 year Strategy and engaged with a range of stakeholders to refresh the Strategy and develop an action plan for the next 3 years.

We engaged and gathered feedback in the following ways:

- Structured interviews with 14 community groups in receipt of Council grants
- Reflection sessions – 2 sessions with recipient of Community Festivals Fund, Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and Sustainable Food Programme
- Log of issues and support needs from ongoing engagement with community groups
- Funding Needs Survey – 50 respondents
- Survey of Community Facility Providers – 38 respondents
- Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2023 findings
- PeacePlus DEA consultation

There is a rich, vibrant and very active community and voluntary and social enterprise sector in Causeway Coast and Glens with dedicated, committed and passionate volunteers and staff who work tirelessly to provide services and activities within our communities. There are single issue and multiple-interest groups, spread across the borough both urban and rural, providing a range of activities and services to beneficiaries across all backgrounds.

Many groups are voluntary with no paid staff, but equally a number of groups operate on a full-time basis with a number of paid staff. Many organisations provide community centres and halls which serve a vital function in our communities by providing spaces that give people an opportunity to connect, socialise, learn and access key services.

Activities and services being delivered by community and voluntary sector include:

youth clubs	social activities
older peoples clubs	sports clubs
parent and toddler groups	womens groups
playgroups	mens sheds
day centres	heritage groups
support groups	cultural activities
self help groups	faith groups
advocacy groups	environmental
charitable fundraising	disability
foodbanks	mental health and well-being
social supermarkets	physical activity
community fridges	uniformed youth organisations
advice centres	

Assets and opportunities

Community and voluntary organisations and the individuals that make up the organisations have a range of skills, resources and experience and the ability to create and respond to opportunities :

- wealth of skills and knowledge within committees and individual volunteers
- dedicated, committed and enthusiastic volunteers
- willingness and enthusiasm to get involved and help others
- local knowledge and knowledge of beneficiary groups
- design, management and delivery of a range of projects
- good range of community premises / facilities
- immediately responsive to emerging needs
- innovative - willing to take risks, and try new ideas
- sense of pride in our communities
- groups working together in an area in a collaborative approach eg Covid response initiatives and Warm Space clusters
- social inclusion activities eg luncheon clubs, festivals
- good partnership working with statutory agencies
- experienced at fundraising and securing funding
- youth participation good in some areas
- good work being done without funding - simple projects/ideas work well
- communities taking on a lobbying role

- good cross community engagement
- looking to the future - sustainability, care for the environment
- opportunities to share resources
- shared spaces that have a positive role in bringing people together in common interests
- community owned outdoor recreation assets eg Limepark Armoy, Drombolcan Wood, Rasharkin, Gortnaghey Play and activity park.
- opportunities to deliver on PeacePlus local community action plan
- emerging approaches such as Participatory Budgeting provide an opportunity to promote democratic community decision making and encourage active citizenship
- opportunities to highlight and celebrate more the great work that is happening in the area.
- opportunities to increase the participation, representation and sense of belonging of people from minority ethnic backgrounds and other Section 75 groups

What are the priority issues in our communities?

Feedback from the various engagement exercises that have helped guide this report, including the Good Relations Audit and PeacePlus consultation, provide an insight into the current priority issues that community and voluntary organisations are focusing on in their communities. Whilst the impact of the Covid pandemic and the cost of living crisis were the most prominent issues, many groups reported that these weren't creating new needs but rather emphasising and exacerbating already existing social isolation, poverty and inequalities.

Loneliness and social isolation was one of the key issues that most groups were trying to address. Of note was the hidden social isolation with many people feeling isolated or experiencing loneliness and not asking for help. Many organisations have gone 'back to basics' with their programmes, providing simple activities for social interaction. Many 'warm space' initiatives started up during winter 2022 and proved to be a lifeline within communities, particularly for older people and within rural areas. A simple game of bingo and a bowl of soup were a means to providing a warm welcoming space and a morning of social interaction, perhaps the only opportunity that week for many attendees to interact socially. Creating welcoming communities for new arrivals, refugees and people seeking asylum was also highlighted as a key issue.

Several groups reported an increased apathy and a lack of engagement within their community and were unsure as to whether people are still reluctant to return to social activities since Covid, whether they can't afford it or are just not interested "people are really down". Some groups reported that it had been difficult to get people to sign up for courses and training as improving access to employment was no longer seen as a way out of poverty.

The key issues that organisations reported that they were focusing on in our communities are as follows:

- loneliness and social isolation
- cost of living crisis, fuel poverty, financial worries
- increased housing costs
- severe lack of social housing
- mental health and wellbeing
- physical health and wellbeing
- youth provision
- creating welcoming communities for new arrivals, refugees and people seeking asylum
- transport costs and poor public transport links
- lack of childcare
- rising levels of anti-social behaviour
- apathy and lack of engagement in community activity
- having an influence and a voice in local decision making
- empowering young leaders

What are the challenges that community and voluntary organisations are facing as they deliver services and activity?

NICVA carried out engagement with members during July 2022 to Spring 2023 to establish the full extent of the impacts of the cost of living on the sector²⁰.

Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations supporting communities through the cost of living crisis are themselves reaching crisis point. They are facing unprecedented demands, at a time when the sector has never faced as many cuts.

The following were the key themes that emerged from the engagement by NICVA with community and voluntary sector organisations across Northern Ireland :

- * Financial Pressures facing the sector in the form of rising bills, particularly the rising cost of fuel and energy.
- * Increased pressure on sector - more people need services when funding is at an all-time low and the pressure on staff is immense.
- * Lack of long term and substantial funding - organisations cannot plan ahead, and cannot offer long term employment to staff with the skills and experience to make a difference.

²⁰ <https://www.nicva.org/resource/the-cost-of-living-crisis-and-the-impact-on-ni-charities>

These challenges were echoed locally in Causeway Coast and Glens by the organisations that were interviewed as part of the engagement for the Strategy refresh. Many of the challenges reported are ongoing ones that were highlighted in the initial Strategy consultation.

- Fear over rising operating costs “Our electricity bills have trebled”
- Funding not increasing in line with increasing running costs
- Continual struggle to secure funding for operating costs
- Volunteer burn out
- Reliance on one or two key committee members with a small number of people doing all the work
- Succession planning for future committee members, specifically for the key roles.
- Gate keeping on committees – difficult to create space for new people and ideas
- Still not back to full capacity since Covid
- Trying to ensure that services remain relevant and target needs.
- Trying not to pass on increasing costs to service users
- Staff burn out
- Securing funding for salaries, particularly in medium to long term
- Risk of losing experienced staff due to insecurity of funding
- Wages for those working in the sector not reflective of the roles; underpaid compared to other sectors
- Don’t feel as if they have an influence on decision making locally (only 22% felt that they did²¹)
- Authentic and genuine consultation with community around big spending decisions²²
- In some areas there remains a disconnect between local groups operating within their own community; groups are sometimes competing with each other for funding and there is a lack of trust making it difficult for Council and others to effectively engage within the community.
- Lack of social activities and events
- Lack of recognition of value of the work
- Need for young people to be better connected in the community
- "Red tape" and bureaucracy in applying for grants; time involved in applying for a relatively small amount of money.
- Trying to reduce energy consumption in our community
- Unsure of what department to link with in council when it comes to particular things such as bins/ use of land/ dog fouling etc

²¹ CCG Good Relations Attitudes Survey 2023

²² Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2023-2026; The Junction

Feedback on the support we have provided

All of the groups that were interviewed were recipients of grants from Council, in particular the Community Development Support Grant, Social Connections Grant and Community Festivals Fund grants. All of the groups felt that the grants were very important to allow their activities to take place and in particular the Community Development Support Grant, which contributed towards operating costs such as utility bills, insurance, venue hire etc. Some groups highlighted that although the increase in amount of grant awarded in 2021 was welcome, there needed to be a further increase to keep up with the rapidly increasing operating costs of electricity and heating. The move to a 3 year term for the CDSG was commended as it allowed groups some stability and removed some of the administrative burden of an annual application cycle.

The ability to access one to one support from the Community Development team was also reported by groups to be invaluable as it was tailored to their group and they were also signposted to useful contacts in Council and other groups carrying out similar projects - "having someone in Council to connect with, pick up the phone and chat with....I really like the CD officers coming out to visit". "We are kept up to date through our CD Officer of what is happening in Council"

Groups reported that even a small grant of a few hundred pounds, such as the Queens Platinum Jubilee Grant or the Social Connections Grant, can have a real impact and allow them to tackle isolation and loneliness. Over 80 small grants were awarded through the Queens Platinum Jubilee Grant Programme and in many cases it was the first time that many small groups had engaged with Council and our grants programmes. Many of these applicants then availed of the subsequent Social Connections Grant to continue their activities and have since become regular attenders at connecting and sharing events and developed relationships with Council officers and other groups as a result.

Funding advice and support continues to be a really valuable resource according to respondents. Places on the one to one funding clinics are always booked straight away and respondents reported that they really benefitted from the opportunity to sit down with a member of the Community Development team and discuss their funding needs and receive guidance on gathering evidence of need and suitable funders. The funding fairs also proved to be valuable with follow up evaluation feedback indicating that funders in attendance received an increase in applications from CCG as a result of attending the fair.

Groups also avail of support to access a range of Council services including planning of events that require permission to use Council land and other Council departments that they engage with include Environmental Services, Events team, Funding Unit and Energy Efficiency Advisors.

What support Council should prioritise over the next 3 years?

Interviewees were encouraged to consider current Council community development provision and to look at what works well, what could be improved, and what were the key areas that Council should prioritise over the next 3 years:

- grants to cover running costs - heat and light; raise Community Development Support Grant in line with the current cost of living (increase grant up to £5000)
- continuing grants
- volunteer recognition and development
- build links between groups and Council – who does what in Council
- supporting the community infrastructure to be responsive to emerging needs
- supporting the groups to do the work on the ground.
- campaign to address social isolation
- support volunteer recruitment
- provide activity and wellbeing to secluded and isolated communities.
- continue to provide support to groups in the form of grants and training.
- continue with training and funding support and providing links to other departments.
- more funding similar to the new Social Connections Grant (£500 really useful for projects especially for small groups)
- continue crucial one to one support for groups from the Community Development Officers
- more networking and connecting opportunities (among and between groups)
- support the development of infrastructures within communities to ensure and enable good internal community relations and cohesion and joint working
- training on committee's and how to recruit new people and volunteers
- seeding grant for new groups
- succession planning for volunteers
- local people having an influence and voice in decision making and civic life
- recognition of value of community sector
- grant for maintenance of community buildings
- help to source & apply for funding
- support to carry out local research
- continue the funding clinics and funding fairs
- connect small groups with larger groups for support and learning
- more good practice visits around the Borough
- an opportunity to avail of Peace Plus funding
- support for social economy projects within groups
- more regular training on finances and reporting to the Commission
- re-introduce the 'Environmental Grant Scheme – where community groups could receive £1000 towards village clean-ups, planting flowers shrubs etc...
- increase the amount provided for 'Community Events' so that events have more of an impact

- re-introduce funding for a Community Larder or food vouchers/parcels
- support communities to tackle dereliction in their villages
- linking with communities to promote local tourism/ historical initiatives
- welcoming communities for new arrivals, refugees and people seeking asylum

DRAFT

6. Outcomes

The Community Development Strategy was developed using an Outcomes Based approach. This approach starts with the results we'd like to achieve and works backwards to consider the means to achieving these results. Outcomes are the change or conditions that we would like to achieve as a result of the strategy.

At a 'whole population' level ie. all the people living in Causeway Coast and Glens there are three broad outcomes for the sector that can't be achieved by a single organisation or service working in isolation but rather take sustained and concerted action from many organisations and can only be delivered through effective partnership working across key stakeholders.

Feedback on the 3 outcomes from the 2020-23 Community Development Strategy (*A Skilled and Confident Community, A Connected Community, A Fair and Inclusive Community*) indicated that they were generally still relevant. One change was made to the first outcome to replace 'Skilled' and *Confident Communities* with 'Resourced' and *Confident Communities*; resources referring to skills, people and finances.

The 3 Outcomes for our 2023-26 Community Development Strategy are:

OUTCOME 1: Our Communities will be Resourced and Confident

OUTCOME 2: Our Communities will be Connected

OUTCOME 3: Our Communities will be Fair and Inclusive

What do the Outcomes mean?

Attendees at workshops for developing the initial strategy put forward what the outcomes meant to them. These definitions were updated with the engagement to refresh the strategy.

A Resourced and Confident Community

A resourced and confident community is one that has the necessary resources in terms of people, skills and finance as well as confidence to respond to needs within their community

- Leadership and capacity to influence change
- Strong community leadership
- An established community infrastructure that can be responsive to emerging needs
- Funding to carry out activities
- Easy access to information
- Tailored support when needed
- Access to skills and expertise when needed
- Opportunities for peer support
- Use of community facilities at affordable rate
- Long term funding for operating costs
- Reduced reliance on grants
- Encouraged to reach potential

- Being involved in decision making
- Good governance in place & access to help available with governance issues
- Able to learn from and share best practice
- A feeling that their contribution and role is valued
- Younger people are encouraged into community activities

A Connected Community

A connected community is one where there is

- Feeling of belonging
- Support for people experiencing isolation in our communities
- Good communication between organisations within a community
- Regular connecting opportunities to share with and learn from other communities
- Community hub/s and venues for social interaction
- Know who to go to for help/ services
- Groups can come together to address common issues
- Able to respond quickly to local needs
- Good links with elected representatives
- Effective working relationships with statutory organisations

A Fair and Inclusive Community

- A thriving community where nobody is left behind and can gain their full potential
- A community which listens to the needs of its members and takes appropriate action
- More opportunities for deprived communities
- Tackling poverty and reducing social inequality
- Adequate and appropriate service provision
- Equality in terms of grants and support
- Accessibility
- The people most in need of help feel included
- Community spaces are shared and welcoming
- Healthy community – better access to health and social services
- Inclusive
- Geographical Spread
- Community enabled to voice what they require
- Good community relations

Indicators

For each of the high level Outcomes we have identified a number of indicators to measure baselines and progress.

Outcome 1: Resourced and Confident Communities

#community groups operating in CCG

people employed in community and voluntary sector in CCG

citizens availing of services provided by community & voluntary sector in CCG

Outcome 2: Connected Communities

community groups that participate in meaningful and consistent networking opportunities

community groups that collaborate within their own community and across communities to deliver specific targeted projects and create joined up proposals

% citizens of CCG who take part in regular volunteering activity

Outcome 3: Fair and Inclusive Communities

% population living in absolute and relative poverty before housing costs

% population living in top 10% areas of deprivation (NIMDM 2017 & individual domains)

Where possible we have used Indicators that are included in the Community Plan. For some of the indicators data isn't currently available and so data development actions are required in Year 1 of the Action Plan in order to be able to measure progress against Outcomes.

Detailed performance indicators are identified in the action plan for each of the work streams.

The challenge in measuring impact is to measure the less tangible benefits of a community development approach in terms of increased community capacity, the relationships that have been built and networks that have developed.

7. Implementation of the Strategy

A number of work streams and key actions have been identified to achieve the outcomes and contribute towards the delivery of Council's priorities.

Outcome 1: Resourced and Confident Communities

1.1 Developmental support to new and existing organisations and promotion of good practice

This will be achieved through one to one officer support tailored to the needs of individual organisations – governance, policies, community engagement, project development, signposting to Council services; as well as training and support for new groups setting up including a small seeding resource allocation for new groups to support with venue hire, insurance promotion and other set up costs.

1.2 Financial assistance towards core costs of community development organisations

This will be provided through the Community Development Support Grant Programme to support operating costs of groups and buildings, and in particular community organisations that are providing community centres and halls where there is no Council provision. We will continue to provide the grant on a 3 year term and consider options to increase the level of grant awarded over the next 3 years in light of significant increases in operating costs of community buildings, in particular utility costs.

1.3 Funding guidance and support to develop fundraising strategies

This will be provided through one to one funding clinics, training and funding fairs. Guidance will include annual programme planning and budgeting, gathering evidence of need, community engagement, project development, measuring impact, identifying funders and applying for funding and fundraising.

1.4 Promotion of Council community centres as hubs for connecting and participation to promote health and well-being

This will be carried out by working with Sport and Wellbeing Department to deliver on the vision of “shared, welcoming, accessible, fit for purpose community centres which provide a range of activities and services to address the needs of all sections of the community” and through engagement with communities in areas where Council centres are located and implementing recommendations from the Shared Spaces in CCG Community Centres Perception Study that was carried out through the Shared Space Initiatives undertaken through the Peace IV Action Plan funded by the European Union’s Regional Development Fund.

1.5 Promotion of good practice in community operated community centres

We will provide training for community groups operating community centres and in receipt of Community Development Support Grant to encourage good practice in all aspects of operating a community centre. A training programme will be adapted annually based on needs identified and could include aspects of governance, health & safety, energy efficiency, operations and monitoring, consultation and activity programming.

1.6 Promotion of volunteering and support for succession planning

We will develop a programme to support succession planning for volunteer committees and boards to review the make up and skills of their current board or committee and to consider how they recruit and support new members to ensure sustainability of their organisation and promote increased involvement of young people in community leadership.

We will continue to work with the 2 Volunteer Centres to promote good practice in volunteer involvement and celebrate the contribution of volunteering across the Borough. We will support the implementation of Council’s Volunteer Policy to open up volunteering opportunities within Council as well as employer supported volunteering opportunities for Council employees.

Outcome 2: Connected Communities

2.1 Communication and sharing of information and opportunities to support and promote the community and voluntary sector

We will do this by maintaining a central Register of Community & Voluntary Organisations in the Borough which will be available for access on Council's website in order to promote greater awareness of the sector. We will regularly share information and opportunities with the register through mailouts and a Community & Culture Service area newsletter.

2.2 Communities connecting and sharing good practice and learning

We will do this through regular information and good practice sharing and connecting events in area based clusters across the Borough which will rotate around different community venues. These provide an opportunity for organisations to share practice and learn from other and an opportunity for peer support for workers employed in the community and voluntary sector. These meetings continue to provide a very useful opportunity for engagement with Council services and other statutory and funding organisations.

2.3 Connecting Communities to Council and promoting good community engagement in Council

We will do this by providing opportunities for community groups to link with Council services such as environmental resources, licencing, energy efficiency etc by organising information sharing and connecting events. We will provide guidance and support to Council service areas to plan all stages of engagement and consultation with local communities in order to ensure appropriate, inclusive and effective approaches to community engagement within Council which recognise the diversity of communities in CCG. We will work with Corporate Services to increase awareness about Council committees and decision-making processes for the community and voluntary sector. We will work with Community Planning Officers in Council to support the Community Engagement Platform which is a mechanism for engagement between public service bodies and local community representatives to monitor services and influence decision making and a means for the collective voice of the community and voluntary sector to be expressed and heard in relation to Community Planning.

2.4 Addressing loneliness and promoting social connections

We will do this by providing support and financial resources to organisations for social connecting activities through the Social Connections Grant and collaboration with members in the Causeway Coast and Glens Loneliness Network. We want to promote and support opportunities for social connection through a range of community, cultural, leisure and sporting activities in community facilities across the borough for children and young people, older people, new arrivals, those with mental health issues, with a disability and anyone experiencing isolation.

2.5 Supporting community festivals and events

We will do this through the Community Festivals Grant programme (part funded by DfC) for community festivals that support community cohesion and participation. We will also partner with Council's Events Team to promote good practice in event management through the provision of training and provide developmental support to community festival organisers to share ideas, good practice and encourage peer support.

Outcome 3: Fair and Inclusive Communities

3.1 Provision of Generalist Advice Service

Generalist advice services provide valuable support and advice on issues like welfare benefits, housing, finance, consumer issues and employment issues. We will continue to commission a Generalist Advice service for the Borough to provide advice through face to face, telephone and online mediums in a number of locations across the district.

3.2 Area based approaches to tackling disadvantage and social and economic inequality through Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

We will continue to facilitate and coordinate Neighbourhood Renewal projects in Coleraine and Limavady in association with the Department for Communities and will participate in planning and design of the succeeding People and Place Strategy and local delivery mechanism to ensure that the needs and circumstances of vulnerable and marginalised communities are understood by decision makers and service providers in CCG to ensure that the strategy best addresses disadvantage and social and economic inequality in the borough.

3.3 Co-ordination of Anti-poverty Stakeholder Group and delivery of Action Plan

We will continue to facilitate the Anti-Poverty Stakeholder Steering Group (APSSG) working in partnership with those organisations that are tackling poverty in the Borough in order to ensure a collaborative and co-ordinated approach between organisations working to support those most in need. We will support and help build the capacity of those organisations that support those most in need and work in partnership with others to tackle the causes of poverty. We will also promote better information, signposting and communication about support services.

3.4 Social Supermarket Support Programme

Social Supermarkets provide members who are struggling financially and meet certain criteria with the opportunity to shop in a reduced cost food shop for a set period of time alongside engaging in wraparound support including advice on debt, benefits, budgeting, healthy eating, housing, physical and mental health referral, and education, training and volunteering opportunities to enhance employability skills. Following positive evaluation of DfC's Social Supermarket Pilot Programme they have expanded funding to all Council areas. We will design and roll out a Social Supermarket Support Programme in association with existing service delivery organisations to offer a longer term and sustainable response to food insecurity across the borough.

3.5 Promotion of community participation, cohesion and active citizenship, including Participatory Budgeting

We will continue to connect with statutory and other agencies to promote collaborative approaches to promoting active citizenship and participation in community life. We will explore the potential to secure resources and link with other partners in collective programmes such as Participatory Budgeting to promote local decision making and active citizenship.

We will also facilitate area or community wide forums/ working groups/ meetings where common issues are raised by more than one group or where there are several groups operating in an area with the potential for duplication/ competition for resources. These forums and meetings will identify and facilitate future collaborative and joined up approaches.

3.6 Building capacity for advocacy and lobbying

Local communities need supported in building capacity to engage effectively with elected representatives, statutory and public sector agencies to ensure that their voice and concerns are heard. We will provide training around presentation skills and gathering evidence and support collaboration with like-minded groups and raise awareness of Council decision making structures.

Monitoring

Each of the key actions will be monitored using performance accountability measures to evaluate how well the project, programme or service is performing at a participant level. These will answer the questions: How much did we do? How well did we do it? and Is anyone better off?

	QUANTITY	QUALITY
EFFORT	How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
EFFECT	How many people are better off?	What percentage of people are better off?

Monthly business plan reports and annual reporting to Council; quarterly and six-monthly reports will be made to Department for Communities (Voluntary and Community Division, Arts & Creativity Branch and Community Engagement Division).

Ongoing engagement

We will review the action plan on an annual basis to inform the delivery of actions under the three outcomes. We will engage with and involve community and voluntary organisations at the design stage of each new programme so that what is delivered best meets the needs and circumstances of community and voluntary organisations in the borough.

Communication

We will communicate information about programmes, grants, other Council services using the following means: mailing list from Register of Community and Voluntary Organisations; Councils website and social media platforms; Community Development social media profile as well as through local support networks. Materials will be made available in different formats upon request. The Advice Service will be delivered via telephone, email and face to face pre-arranged appointments; advice appointments will also be made available through Council's SignVideo service in association with frontline advice providers.

Equality Screening

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires all public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between –

- Persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Men and women generally;
- Persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Persons with dependents and persons without.

In addition public authorities must also have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Public authorities are required to screen all policies and make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations. The screening process did not identify potential adverse impact on any of the Section 75 groups since the Strategy is intended to address inequalities and tackle social inclusion and operates on the basis of need.

Rural Needs Assessment

Public authorities are required to undertake Rural Proofing of policies and strategies to ensure that rural needs and circumstances are fully considered during the policy making process.

The engagement process was designed to ensure that we had representation from rural areas. During implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan consideration will be given to location and timings of workshops and events so that they meet the needs of people living in rural areas. An issue that featured significantly in the consultation process was transport and access to services in rural areas. Projects in the Action Plan are aimed at addressing this need including grant funding that can contribute to transport costs and social inclusion activities as well as supporting community and voluntary organisations to deliver their services and activities in rural areas.

8 Action Plan 2023-24

Outcome 1: Resourced and Confident Communities					
<p>Link with Community Plan Outcome: A Healthy Safe Community All people of Causeway Coast and Glens will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect and supports everyone to live together.</p> <p>Link with Councils Corporate Strategy Outcome: Strategic Priority 4: Healthy, Active & Engaged Communities The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities.</p>					
	Project/ Programme	Details/ key activities	Timescale	Performance measures	Performance targets
1.1	Developmental support to new and existing organisations and promotion of good practice	One to one officer time to support new group set up or to support existing community groups with the development of community projects and to promote good practice. Small resource allocation to support new group set up costs.	By March 2024	# new groups supported # community projects supported # resource allocations % groups who found support useful % groups that feel better able to carry out their activities	3 x new groups supported 30 x community groups receive developmental support 3 x resource allocations 100 % groups who found support useful 100 % groups that feel better able to carry out their activities
1.2	Financial assistance towards core costs of community development organisations	Operate Community Development Support Grant to support community groups with operating costs of their community activities and community buildings.	April 2023 to March 2024	# grants awarded # community buildings supported # volunteers involved in Council supported activity % claim rate	50 grants awarded 40 community buildings supported # volunteers involved in Council supported activity 95% claim rate 100% groups able to carry out programme of activities

				% groups that were able to carry out a programmes of activities	
1.3	Funding guidance and support to develop fundraising strategies	Programme of one to one support and training to assist organisations to develop fundraising strategies, source funding opportunities and prepare effective funding applications, to include good financial planning, engagement and evaluation practices.	Apr 2023 – Mar 2024	# workshops/ clinics held # groups supported # funding levered % groups who found support useful % groups who were able to lever funding	12 x workshops/ funding clinics 30 groups supported 100 % groups who found support useful 90 % groups able to lever funding
1.4	Promotion of Council community centres as hubs for connecting and participation in order to promote improved health and well-being	Programme of engagement with user groups in Council’s community centres to sustain and increase community use of the 12 centres, through implementation of recommendations of Community Centre Perception Study and by providing support to groups to develop programmes of activity and source and secure funding.	Apr 2023 – Mar 2024	# engagement activities # regular bookings % increase in user figures % increase in regular group bookings	12 engagement activities undertaken 120 regular bookings 10% increase in user figures 10% increase in regular bookings
1.5	Promotion of good practice in community operated community centres	Programme of support and training for community facility providers to encourage good practice in all aspects of operating a community facility.	Apr 2023 – Mar 2024	# workshops/ events # community buildings receiving support # community groups accessing other Council programme support % participants who found workshops useful % participants that are better informed about their responsibilities as facility providers	6x workshops 20x community buildings receive support 5x community groups operating Council centres receiving support 100% participants find support useful 100% participants that are better informed 90% participants that will change their practices as a result

				% participants that will change their practices as a result	
1.6	Promotion of volunteering and support for succession planning	<p>Pilot programme to support voluntary committees to develop a succession plan that will identify critical roles and skills, undertake targeted recruitment of volunteers, invest in developing volunteers' skills and valuing the contribution of long serving members as they mentor new members and share their knowledge.</p> <p>Celebrate volunteering in CCG and work closely with Volunteer Centres to promote Volunteers Week.</p> <p>Implementation of Councils Volunteer Policy to open up volunteering opportunities within Council as well as employer supported volunteering for Council employees.</p>	Sept 2023 – Mar 2024	<p># of community groups completing programme</p> <p># of succession plans in place</p> <p>#groups whose volunteer base has increased</p> <p>% of participants who thought the programme was beneficial</p> <p>% of groups who feel better equipped to achieve their objectives</p> <p># volunteer placements in Council</p> <p># Council employees volunteering days</p>	<p>3 community groups completing programme</p> <p>3 succession plans in place</p> <p>3 groups whose volunteer base has increased</p> <p>100 % of participants who thought the programme was beneficial</p> <p>100 % of groups who feel better equipped to achieve their objectives</p> <p>6 volunteer placements in Council</p> <p>20 Council employees volunteering days</p>

Outcome 2: Connected Communities

Link with Community Plan Outcome: **A Healthy Safe Community**

All people of Causeway Coast and Glens will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect and supports everyone to live together.

Link with Councils Corporate Strategy Outcome: **Strategic Priority 4: Healthy, Active & Engaged Communities**

The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities.

	Project	Details	Timescale	Performance measures	Performance targets
2.1	Communication and sharing of information and opportunities to support and promote the community and voluntary sector	Continue to develop and maintain central, publicly available Register of Community & Voluntary Organisations in Causeway Coast and Glens Regular dissemination of information in relation to funding, training, good practice and other opportunities to Community & Voluntary Organisations through Community & Culture newsletter	April 2023 to March 2024	# groups registered % increase in number of groups registered # other Council depts that access CVS register # Community & Culture newsletter mailouts	400 groups registered (380 currently) 4 other Council depts use register 6 Community & Culture newsletters issued & weekly information mailouts
2.2	Communities connecting and sharing good practice and learning	Regular information and good practice sharing and connecting events based on theme or geographical area, including Roe Valley Community Network, and connecting events for Coleraine and Ballymoney/Moyle groups.	April 2023 to March 2024	# networking events # participants % participants who found events useful # participants who made useful contacts	12 networking events 50 groups 160 participants 100% participants who found events useful 100% participants who made useful contacts

2.3	Connecting Communities to Council and promoting good community engagement in Council	Continue to work with Community Planning to facilitate the Community Engagement Platform to provide a mechanism for engagement between public service bodies and local community representatives and to represent the collective voice of the sector in the Community Plan Promote links and building of relationships between community organisations and Council, including Elected Members Provide guidance and support to Council service areas to plan engagement and consultation with local communities	April 2023 to March 2024	# events # participants # Council service areas attend % participants who found events useful % participants who are better informed #service area engagement exercises supported	3x CEP events held 30 groups participate 4 Council service areas attend 100% participants who found events useful 100% participants who are better informed 3 service area engagement exercises supported
2.4	Addressing Loneliness and promoting Social Connections	Develop and deliver Social Connections Grant Programme providing £500 financial resources to organisations for social connecting activities Participate in the Causeway Loneliness Network and work with NHSCT to deliver 2 initiatives	April 2023 to March 2024	# social connecting activities receiving financial support # value of grants awarded # Loneliness Network meetings attended # collaborative initiatives	20 social connecting activities supported £10,000 grants awarded 4xLoneliness Network meetings 2xcollaborative initiatives
2.5	Supporting community festivals and events	Deliver Community Festivals Fund grant programme Provide developmental support to community festival organisers to share ideas, good practice and encourage peer support.	April 2023 to March 2024	# applications awarded/ community festivals supported % application success rate # training workshops held # participants % participants who found support useful	30 Community Festivals Fund grants awarded 90% application success rate 2 training workshops 20 participants 100 % participants who found support useful 100% participants who will develop their festival as a result

				% participants who will develop their festival as a result	
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Outcome 3: Our Communities will be Fair and Inclusive

Link with Community Plan Outcome: **A Healthy Safe Community**

All people of Causeway Coast and Glens will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect and supports everyone to live together.

Link with Councils Corporate Strategy Outcome: **Strategic Priority 4: Healthy, Active & Engaged Communities**

The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities.

	Project	Details	Timescale	Performance measures	Performance targets
3.1	Provision of Generalist Advice Service	Contract for Generalist advice services to provide advice on issues like welfare benefits, housing, finance, consumer and employment issues through face to face, telephone and online mediums. New contract to be issued for 3 years subject to funding commencing April 2024	April 2023 to March 2024	# contract awarded # enquiries dealt with # contacts dealt with # additional income secured in Borough # people that feel satisfied with the advice provided # people who feel that they are more in control of their circumstances % breakdown of types of advice offered % breakdown of method of provision – in person appointment, telephone etc	30,000 enquiries dealt with 10,000 contacts £ additional income secured in Borough 100% people that feel satisfied with the advice provided 100% people who feel that they are more in control of their circumstances Case studies and customer satisfaction responses
3.2	Area based approaches to tackling disadvantage and social and	Co-ordination of Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships in Coleraine and Limavady as well as promotion of collaborative	April 2023 to March 2024	# groups supported # collaborative projects supported	16 NR projects supported 2 collaborative projects supported

	economic inequality through Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships	approaches to tackling deprivation in Neighbourhood Renewal areas.		% gps found support useful	100% gps found support useful
3.3	Co-ordination of Anti-poverty Stakeholder Group and delivery of Action Plan	Facilitate Anti-Poverty Steering Group of voluntary sector advice and emergency support organisations and statutory partners to implement CCG Antui-poverty Action Plan to ensure a joined up approach to supporting people experiencing poverty in Causeway Coast and Glens. Delivery of DfC Hardship Fund proposals	April 2023 to March 2024	# stakeholders participating in partnership # AP wider stakeholder meetings and events # collaborative projects undertaken # & % partners who felt that collaboration benefitted their service delivery	16 stakeholders participate in APSSG 4x wider stakeholder events 6x collaborative projects undertaken 100% partners who felt that collaboration benefitted their service delivery
3.4	Social Supermarket Support Programme	Delivery of DfC Social Supermarket Programme to provide opportunity to shop in a reduced cost food shop for a set period of time alongside engaging in wraparound support including advice on debt, benefits, budgeting, healthy eating, housing, physical and mental health referral, and education, training and volunteering opportunities to enhance employability skills through existing social supermarkets. Invite expressions of interest for organisations interested in testing the SSM in areas where there are gaps	April 2023 to March 2024	# of households/ individuals supported # existing SSM supported # organisations applying to test SSM model Age breakdown Reason for referral Additional Support provided (non-food) including referrals & wraparound support delivered directly # people that feel satisfied with the support provided	160 households supported 2 existing SSM supported 1 new test SSM model identified and supported 100% people that feel satisfied with the support provided 100% people who feel that they are more in control of their circumstances

				# people who feel that they are more in control of their circumstances	
3.5	Promotion of community participation, cohesion and active citizenship, including participatory budgeting	Connect with statutory and other agencies to promote collaborative approaches to promoting active citizenship and participation in community life eg. Participatory Budgeting Facilitate area or community wide forums/ working groups/ meetings where common issues are raised or where there are several groups operating in an area with the potential for duplication/ competition for resources in order to identify and facilitate future collaborative and joined up approaches.	April 2023 to March 2024	# collaboration projects undertaken # engagement exercises supported # community wide collaborative approaches supported	3 collaboration projects undertaken 3 engagement exercises supported 3 community wide collaborative approaches supported
3.6	Building capacity for advocacy and lobbying	Provide training around presentation skills and gathering evidence Raise awareness of Council decision making structures.	April 2023 to March 2024	# training sessions/ information workshops offered # groups participating # groups who found the training useful # groups who feel that their knowledge has increased as a result	3 training sessions/ information workshops offered 10 groups participating 100% groups who found the training useful 100% groups who feel that their knowledge has increased as a result

Appendix 1: Community Development National Occupational Standards (CD NOS)

Functional area	NOS Ref	Relevant NOS title
Key Area 1: CORE Understand and practise community development	CLDSCCD01	Integrate and use the values and process of community development
	CLDSCCD02	Work with the tensions inherent in community development practice
	CLDSCCD03	Relate to different communities
	CLDSCCD04	Develop yourself as a community development practitioner
	CLDSCCD05	Maintain community development practice within own organisation
	CLDSCCD06	Support inclusive and collective working
	INSML045	Manage programmes of work or projects
	INSML008	Promote equality of opportunity, diversity and inclusion in your organisation
Key Area 2: Understand and engage with communities	CLDSCCD07	Get to know a community
	CLDSCCD08	Facilitate community research and consultations
Key Area 3: Group work and collective action	CLDSCCD09	Organise community events and activities
	CLDSCCD10	Support communities to effectively manage and address conflict, within and between communities or community groups
	CLDSCCD11	Support communities who want to bring about positive social change
	CLDSCCD12	Facilitate community leadership
Key Area 4: Collaborative and cross-sectoral working	CLDSCCD13	Promote and support effective relationships between communities and public bodies and other agencies
	CLDSCCD14	Encourage and support public bodies to build effective relationships with communities
	CLDSCCD15	Support collaborative and partnership work
	CLDSCCD16	Strategically co-ordinate networks and partnerships
	NEW	Advocate with and on behalf of individuals and communities so that their interests are represented

Key Area 5: Community learning for social change	CLDSCCD17	Promote opportunities for community development learning
	CLDSCCD18	Facilitate community learning for social and political development
	NEW	Support communities to become aware, collectively explore and act on the impacts of climate change in pursuit of climate justice
Key Area 6: Governance and organisational development	CLDSCCD20	Advise on organisational structures to support community development
	CLDSCCD21	Plan and gain resources and funding for sustainability
	CLDSCCD22	Strengthen the organisational development of groups
	CLDSCCD23	Monitor and evaluate community development activities
	CLDSCCD24	Manage internal organisational development and external relationships
	CLDSCCD25	Supervise and support community development practitioners
	INSHOU53	Recruit and manage volunteers

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Appendix 2: Strategic Context – linkage with Regional and Local Strategies

Regional Strategic Context

Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 and Outcomes Delivery Plan (Dec 2019)

There are 14 strategic outcomes which direct efforts towards developing wellbeing. The outcomes are supported by 42 indicators which are clear statements for change. The Outcomes relevant for the Community Development Strategy are:

- Outcome 3. We have a more equal society;
- Outcome 4. We enjoy long, healthy, active lives;
- Outcome 5. We are an innovative, creative society where people can fulfil their potential;
- Outcome 7. We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other;
- Outcome 8. We care for others and we help those in need;
- Outcome 9. We are a shared society that respects diversity;
- Outcome 10. We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking Society.

Department for Communities Building Inclusive Communities (2020-25)

The Department for Communities Strategy “Building Inclusive Communities 2020-2025” sets out how the Department will work across government, Arm’s Length Bodies and with communities in delivering the common purpose of Supporting People, Building Communities, Shaping Places. The Strategy sets out four key cross-cutting themes of

Anti-Poverty: We reduce the number of citizens who are living in absolute and relative poverty through a range of cross-cutting interventions, ensuring vulnerable people, those facing poverty and communities have access to the support they need, based on our enhanced understanding of the causes of poverty.

Wellbeing & Inclusion: We help everyone within our communities live positive, fulfilled lives surrounded by diverse opportunities to work, enjoy themselves and get involved. This supports physical and mental health at an individual and community level.

Sustainability & Inclusive Growth: We support citizens and communities by working with them in achieving their maximum potential through a range of economic, cultural and environmental interventions such as increasing work opportunities for citizens and the development of heritage locations as community assets. Provision of an increased supply of affordable and sustainable homes, and improved access to housing solutions that meet the need of citizens.

Agility & Innovation: We drive performance with the citizen at the heart of all that we do. We set clear targets, we have in place strong and collaborative delivery structures, maximising technology, maintaining and enhancing skills, energy and commitment throughout the organisation, and exercising strong leadership.

People & Place: A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal (2003) (under review)

In June 2003, Government launched Neighbourhood Renewal - People and Place. To tackle deprivation in an integrated way, the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy had four interlinking strategic objectives:

1. Community Renewal - to develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in the most deprived neighbourhoods;
2. Economic Renewal - to develop economic activity in the most deprived neighbourhoods and connect them to the wider urban economy;
3. Social Renewal - to improve social conditions for the people who live in the most deprived neighbourhoods through better co-ordinated public services and the creation of safer environments; and
4. Physical Renewal - to help create attractive, safe, sustainable environments in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Advising, Supporting, Empowering A Strategy for the delivery of Generalist Advice Services in N Ireland (2015-20)

This Strategy, which is due to be replaced guides the delivery of generalist advice services. A significant proportion of the Community Support Programme monies provided to local Councils by DfC is ring fenced for generalist advice provision. The strategy contains seven high level strategic objectives:

- Objective 1: To empower and enable people to help themselves;
- Objective 2: To have an aligned and complementary approach to the delivery of advice services;
- Objective 3: To have a sustainable Advice sector which maximises the impact of resources;
- Objective 4: To maximise accessibility to quality generalist advice services;
- Objective 5: To encourage the role of the Advice sector in contributing to the policy development cycle;
- Objective 6: To support the delivery of the strategy;
- Objective 7: To deliver the Strategy.

The Department for Social Development “Beyond the Centre” document (2000)

The Department for Social Development “Beyond the Centre” document, (2000) and its Community Support Programme together set the current policy direction for the community development support work of Councils. The Department’s support for Councils’ Community Support Plans is intended to achieve the four outcomes of its Community Support Programme:

- An active and organised community;
- An influential community;
- An informed community; and
- A sustainable community.

Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future A Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for

The following are the objectives and priorities of the DfC Volunteering Strategy:

- Objective 1: Recognising the Value and Promoting the Benefits;
- Objective 2: Enhancing Accessibility and Diversity;
- Objective 3: Improving the Experience;

Northern Ireland 2012 Objective 4: Supporting and Strengthening the Infrastructure;
Objective 5: Delivering the Strategy.
Two local Volunteer Centres receive funding from DfC through the Volunteering Strategy.

The Executive Office of Good Relations Strategic Document - **Together: Building A United Community** (TBUC) 2013 There are four key priorities in the TBUC Strategy that are all of relevance:

1. Our Children and Young People;
2. Our Shared Community;
3. Our Safe Community;
4. Our Cultural Expression.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs **Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland** (2021) Northern Ireland’s Rural Policy Framework seeks to support a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life and opportunities as everyone else in Northern Ireland. The aim is to create a rural community where people want to live, work and be active in a sustainable and environmentally responsible way. The Framework focuses on five thematic pillars:

- 1: Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- 2: Sustainable Tourism
- 3: Health and Wellbeing
- 4: Employment
- 5: Connectivity

Making Life Better – A Whole System Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-23 This 10 year public health strategic framework provides direction for policies and actions to improve the health & wellbeing of people in Northern Ireland. The Framework is structured around 6 themes:

1. Giving Every Child the Best Start;
2. Equipped Throughout Life;
3. Empowering Healthy Living;
4. Creating the Conditions;
5. Empowering Communities;
6. Developing Collaboration.

The Strategy recognises the vital role that community and voluntary organisations play in enabling and empowering people to improve their health.

Local Strategic Context

A Better Future Together - A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017-2030

The Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens has 3 overarching long term Strategic Population Outcomes:

1. A Healthy Safe Community;
2. A Thriving Economy;
3. A Sustainable Accessible Environment.

Of a further twelve intermediate outcomes the following are relevant for the Community Development Strategy:

- Outcome 1: All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing;
- Outcome 2: Our children and young people will have the very best start in life;
- Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast and Glens area feels safe; and
- Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

There are opportunities for collaborative community development approaches to achieve the outcomes within the Community Plan, including actions relating to addressing poverty and support to the community and voluntary sector.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (CCGBC) Corporate Strategy 2021-25

The Corporate Strategy for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Strategy for the period 2021-25 has identified five strategic priorities:

- Cohesive Leadership
- Local Economy
- Improvement and Innovation
- Healthy and Engaged Communities
- Climate Change and Our Environment

Within the Strategic Priority of Healthy and Engaged Communities are several relevant Outcomes:

- Citizens and communities are supported to develop improved approaches to health and wellbeing and lifestyle choices as they progress through the Covid 19 recovery journey
- The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities
- Citizens and communities will be centrally involved in Council's planning and decision making processes

Causeway Coast and Glens Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Action Plans (Coleraine & Limavady)

Two Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships operate in Causeway Coast and Glens - in Limavady and in Coleraine (Millburn/ Ballysally and Churchlands) to oversee the implementation of Annual Action Plans. The Action Plans contain projects under the themes of Community, Economic, Social & Physical Renewal.

CCGBC Good Relations Strategy 2023-26

Council's Good Relation Strategy is aligned with Together: Building A United Community (TBUC)

1. Our Children and Young People;
2. Our Shared Community;

3. Our Safe Community;
4. Our Cultural Expression.

There are opportunities for collaborative working in several of the projects identified in the strategy including shared space, community capacity building, integration for newcomers.

The Community Development team has a role to play in supporting the development of capacity within communities to participate in Good Relations work.

CC&G Policing and Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, Strategic Plan and Action Plan 2019-2024

CCG PCSP Strategic Goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Building capacity of the partners to create opportunities for collaborative gain;

Goal 2: Early intervention (addressing crime and the causes of crime);

Goal 3: Safe people and places;

Goal 4: Fear of crime and crime prevention;

Goal 5: Connecting our planning with our communities that builds community confidence in the rule of law and embed a culture of lawfulness.

There are significant opportunities for collaborative work between the Community Development team and PCSP particularly in supporting the development of capacity within communities to participate in PCSP activity.

CCGBC Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy 2016-2021 'Open Doors to Culture'

Councils Culture Arts & Heritage Strategy contains 5 strategic themes:

1. Enhancing our cultural venues & assets;

2. Investing in creative learning & skills development;

3. History, heritage and cultural tourism;

4. Participation, inclusion and equality;

5. Communication and advocacy.

There are opportunities for collaboration to support community engagement and culture, arts and heritage enhancement of community activity.

CC&G PEACEPLUS 2021-27 Local Action Plan

PEACEPLUS is a new European Union funding programme designed to support Peace & prosperity across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland, building upon the previous PEACE and INTERREG programmes. The design reflects the importance of peace-building activity but also the importance of actions that will contribute positively to the economy, build prosperity, and adjust to the increasing challenges we face in society.

The PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan will be delivered under Theme 1 of the overall PEACEPLUS Programme "Building Peaceful & Thriving Communities" as 1.1 Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plans.

The Local Action Plan will be delivered along three thematic areas:

- Local Community regeneration & transformation.
- Thriving & Peaceful Communities.
- Building Respect for all cultural identities

**CCGBC Recovery
& Renewal – an
economic strategy
for the Causeway
Coast and Glens
2020-25**

The Strategy sets out to understand and evaluate the economic position of the Causeway Coast & Glens area and give recommendations for the council with a horizon of 2035.

This strategy and action plan will be used by the Council to lead the borough in achieving its full potential in order to deliver inclusive and sustainable wealth and well-being for its citizens.

Six areas of focus for recovery and renewal are identified in the Strategy:

- (i) Labour Market Activation
- (ii) Business Start/ Survival
- (iii) Business Evolution
- (iv) Connected Borough
- (v) Green Borough
- (vi) Renewed Place

DRAFT

Appendix 3: Most deprived Super Output Areas in Causeway Coast and Glens LGD (NIMDM 2017)


Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017

Most deprived SOAs within CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS LGD



INCOME

Rank	SOA
6	Ballysally 1
25	Glentaisie & Kinbane
32	Royal Portrush
33	Greystone
39	Dungiven
53	Feeny
57	The Highlands
59	Ballylough & Bushmills
60	Coolessan
71	Garvagh



EMPLOYMENT

Rank	SOA
5	Greystone
23	Coolessan
38	Ballysally 1
94	Roeside
97	Enagh 2
132	Route
136	Cross Glebe
139	Churchland
140	Royal Portrush
151	Dungiven




HEALTH AND DISABILITY

Rank	SOA
48	Coolessan
51	Greystone
94	Ballysally 1
120	Enagh 2
171	Churchland
184	Cross Glebe
193	Ballysally 2
214	Roeside
222	Central
241	Dungiven



EDUCATION, SKILLS AND TRAINING

Rank	SOA
42	Greystone
67	Coolessan
103	Ballysally 2
114	Ballysally 1
139	Cross Glebe
147	Ballylough & Bushmills
149	Churchland
172	Newhill
173	Enagh 2
188	University



ACCESS TO SERVICES

Rank	SOA
12	Glack
13	Ballyhoe and Corkey
25	Magilligan
38	Carnmoon & Dunserverick
51	Ringsend
55	Armoyle & Moss-side and Moyarget
58	The Vow
63	The Highlands
68	Dunloy
70	Knockaholet




LIVING ENVIRONMENT

Rank	SOA
26	Central
62	Dundooan 1
86	Knockaholet
99	Carnmoon & Dunserverick
101	Roeside
105	Dervock
113	Strand 1
123	Aghanloo 2
156	Rathbrady
186	Agivey



CRIME AND DISORDER

Rank	SOA
12	Greystone
18	Royal Portrush
20	Coolessan
36	Central
40	Portstewart
47	Enagh 2
72	Atlantic
81	Roeside
93	Ballysally 1
152	Churchland

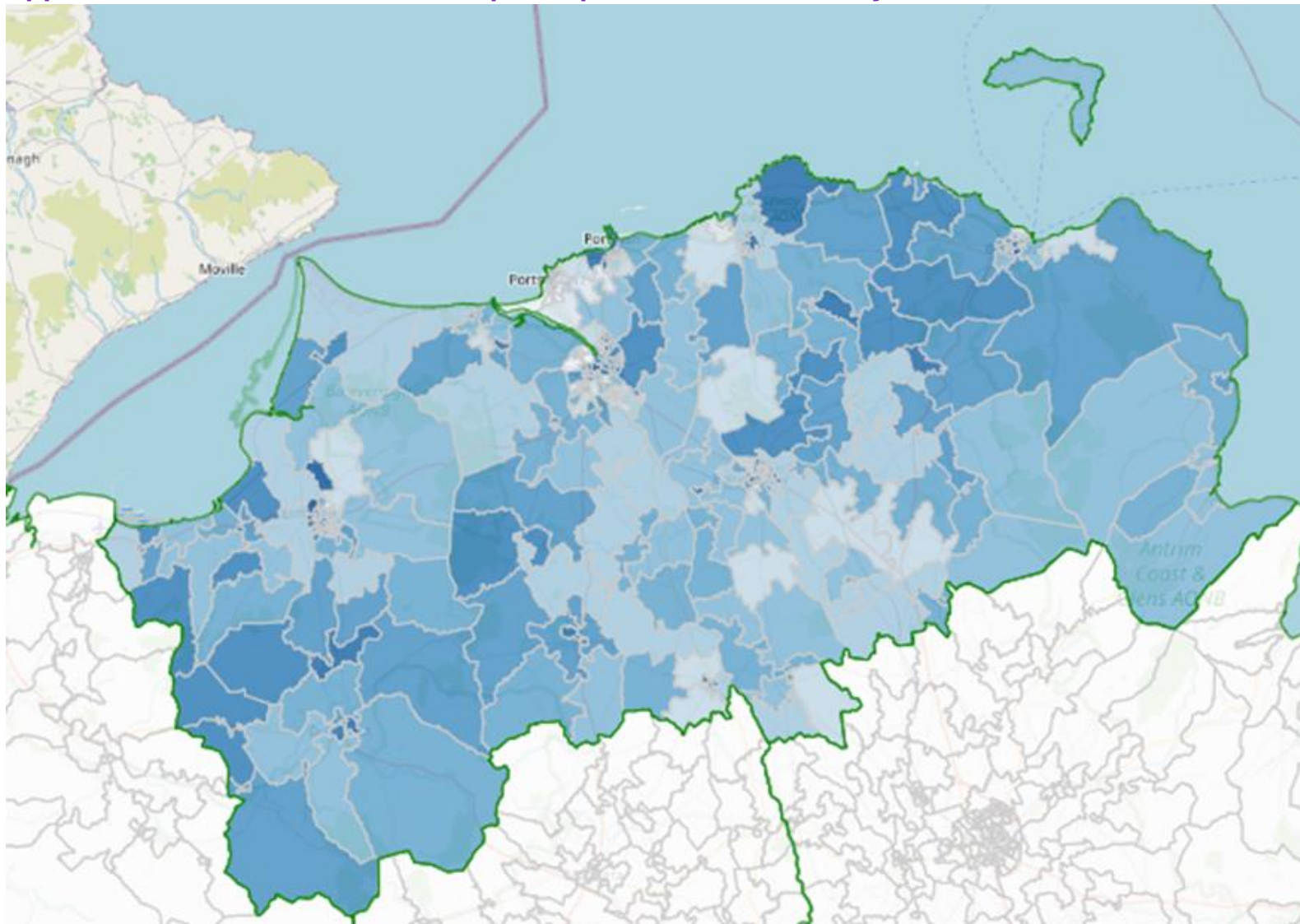


MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION

Rank	SOA
11	Greystone
31	Ballysally 1
34	Coolessan
105	Royal Portrush
124	Glentaisie & Kinbane
127	Enagh 2
137	Central
145	Dungiven
157	Cross Glebe
160	Ballysally 2

For each domain, as well as the overall multiple measure the 890 SOAs in NI are ranked from 1 (most deprived) to 890 (least deprived)

Appendix 4: Concentration of Multiple Deprivation in Causeway Coast and Glens.



Appendix 5: Map of electoral wards in Causeway Coast and Glens



Appendix 6: Summary of Grants Awarded 2020-23

Year	Grant Programme	No of grants awarded	Value of grants awarded
20-21	Community Development Support Grant	51	£92,837
	Social Inclusion Grant	23	£11,215
	Covid-19 Community Support Fund Tranche 1	50	£84,018
	Covid-19 Community Support Fund Tranche 2	48	£129,953
	Covid-19 Community Support Fund Tranche 3	51	£187,591
	Foodbank Support Grant	4	£20,000
	Food & Essential Supplies Fund	53	£101,420
	Warm Well & Connected Fund	18	£36,000
	Volunteering Support Fund	72	£32,305
	370	£695,339	
21-22	Community Development Support Grant	54	£93,593
	Social Inclusion Grant	15	£7,390
	Community Festivals Fund	21	£29,960
	Covid Access to Food Fund	15	£27,745
	Sustainable Food Grant Round 1	24	£54,492
	Sustainable Food Grant Round 2	12	£24,175
	NI 100 Small Grant	31	£89,006
	172	£326,361	
22-23	Community Development Support Grant	55	£145,571
	Social Inclusion Grant	10	£4,984
	Community Festivals Fund	33	£51,458
	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Small Grant	82	£30,949
	179	£230,513	

We are happy to provide this document in different formats. Please contact:

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**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**