

1718 Emigration Working Group	10th October 2017
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Julie Welsh - Head of Community & Culture Margaret Edgar –Cultural Services Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	Unknown

The purpose of this report is to progress the amended Notice of Motion as agreed by Council in August 2017, in relation to the recognition of the three hundred year anniversary of the emigration from the Bann Valley to America.

Background

In the August Council meeting, the Notice of Motion Submitted, Proposed and Seconded by Councillors Callan, Duddy, Clarke and McCorkell;

‘That this Council recognise the three hundredth anniversary of the emigration of over 700 Presbyterians from the Bann Valley to Boston, America in the summer of 1718...and to celebrate this momentous historic event, within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area, monies should be set aside to permit groups to apply for, through council’s grant funding process’ (Abbrv)

The Notice of Motion was subsequently subject to amendment;

‘Following on from the Notice of Motion agreed by Council, furthermore, that this Council considers supporting these groups hoping to provide a legacy to the momentous event by way of a permanent monument or land markers to mark the significance of this anniversary in a lasting manner and in order to re-establish links with the descendants of the immigrants in America that this Council consider a twinning or sister city relationship with the areas of the settlements in America.’

Following discussion of the matter, the Chief Executive advised that a Working Group would be set up to look at the matter and progress details of the Notice of Motion.

1718 The Local Perspective

In the summer of 1718, James McGregor (born Magilligan circa 1677) minister in Aghadowey along with a large part of his congregation, left by boat from Coleraine for the New England colonies in North America. According to Ulster Historical Foundation at least 100 families, at least 500 people (some estimate 1000) departed.

Arriving in Boston where supplies for the locals were already short and for other reasons, the new arrivals were moved on to various locations. Some went on to Nutfield later renamed Londonderry, 30 miles north of Boston, others settled in the coastal areas of Maine.

Families were emigrating to north America before 1718 and continued long after. The significance of 1718 is due to this being the first organised migration of Scots and Irish born Presbyterians to the north of America, of which the Aghadowey congregation was the first to arrive.

Staff have indicated, through initial research, that local areas specifically affected by the 1718 migration included Dunboe, Somerset, Macosquin, Aghadowey, Garvagh, Boveedy, Kilrea, Ballymoney and Portrush.

Scoping the Work - Programmes and activities planned to date

Council are already engaged through in house Museums services projects and through support of external groups to develop activities relating to the 1718 emigration. These include talks, tours, brochures, conferences' lectures and exhibitions. **Annex A** provides further detail relating to these planned activities.

There is also potential to develop relevant activity within the Peace IV funded 'Understanding our Area' project, in partnership with the community & voluntary sector, on a cross community, partnership basis. This particular project will provide opportunities for groups to participate in an area based heritage, history and built environment project using museum collections, historic sites, cultural heritage, arts and interactive media tools, working with whole communities to better understand and express their own and others' culture, history, community and place. A proportion of participant groups will also be provided with a resource allocation to prepare and produce an interpretive resource/ visual artwork on the cultural diversity of their area.

Proposed Approach

Staff have identified a range of potential stakeholders/partners engaged in both existing and emerging initiatives who could work alongside Council to develop a suitable programme by which to recognise the three hundred year anniversary of the emigration from the Bann Valley to America.

It is proposed that Council approve a working group with the following broad terms of reference:

Purpose/Role of the Working Group

To act as an advisory group, supporting the development of a proposed programme of activity that takes cognisance of the Notion of Motion and its amendments, in order to recognise the three hundred year anniversary of the emigration from the Bann Valley to America.

- To identify resource requirements to deliver an agreed programme of activity.
- To share best practice in terms of existing initiatives and approaches.
- To promote co-ordination and collaboration in terms of delivery of a range of activity, avoiding duplication of effort.

Membership

Membership is established on the basis of key organisations and individuals who can contribute to the agreed priorities of the working group and who bring relevant skills and expertise. Membership may initially include:

- Members of Council's Leisure & Development Committee - numbers to be agreed.
- Ulster Scots Agency.
- University of Ulster.
- Ulster History Foundation.
- Garvagh Cultural Society.
- Garvagh Museum.

- Scotti Rooms, Cuil Rathain.
- The Honourable the Irish Society.
- Other relevant stakeholders as per agreement of Council.

The group will be facilitated by Council staff which will include representation from Cultural Services and Tourism & Recreation, who will feed back recommendations through the Leisure & Development Committee on a regular basis.

Recommendation

1. Members consider the report, proposed working group structure and associated terms of reference.
2. Members agree the composition of the working group, including representation from the Leisure & Development Committee.

ANNEX A

PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR 1718 EMIGRATION

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services are planning an exhibition to provide context to 1718 events, exploring life in the area during the first half of the 18th century, using maps, archives, artefacts, poetry and artworks.

To date the following organisations have also indicated their intentions to deliver 1718 activity:

Activity that is shaded is confirmed or completed

Organisation	Activities	Schedule	Funding	Notes
EXTERNAL AGENCIES				
Ulster Scots Agency	MAGUS Cultural Tourism Potential Report	Awaiting issue		Verbal comms from Ian Crozier Sept 2016 - potentially piece of public art. No further information available to date.
	1718 History brochure	Completed	Funded by MAGUS and carried out by Ulster Historical Foundation	
Presbyterian Historical Society	1718 lecture Alison McCaughan	March 2018		
University of Ulster	1718 Conference	June Date TBC		Details to follow
Maine Ulster Scots Project	Ulster Diaspora 2018 reunion Including 1718	14 - 16 August		Advertised
Ulster History Foundation	Migration Conference including 1718 focus	September		Details to follow
	US lecture series - 1718 included	2019		

CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Museum Services	Exhibition programme	May June 2018 Coleraine Town Hall		Details to follow
		July August 2018 RVACC		
		Feb - Mar 2019 Ballymoney Museum		

LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Scotti Rooms Cuil Rathain	1718 Programme of talks and tours	Jan - March	Funded by Community Festivals Fund 2017	
		April - August	Subject to funding	
Garvagh and District Cultural Society/Committee	1718 programme TBC	June - July	Subject to funding	
Garvagh Museum	1718 archaeology/event TBC	TBC	Subject to funding	
TBC First Presbyterian Church Dunboe	Potential activity	TBC		