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| <b>Title of Report:</b>                    | <b>Request for Use of The Council Chamber</b>    |
| <b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>      | <b>Corporate Policy &amp; Resource Committee</b> |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                    | <b>25<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>                |
| <b>For Decision or For Information</b>     | <b>For Decision</b>                              |
| <b>To be discussed In Committee YES/NO</b> | <b>No</b>  |

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

| <b>Budgetary Considerations</b>    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Cost of Proposal                   | Nil |
| Included in Current Year Estimates | N/A |
| Capital/Revenue                    |     |
| Code                               |     |
| Staffing Costs                     |     |

| <b>Legal Considerations</b>      |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Input of Legal Services Required | YES/NO |
| Legal Opinion Obtained           | YES/NO |

| <b>Screening Requirements</b> | Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. |        |       |
|-------------------------------|--|--------|-------|
| Section 75 Screening          | Screening Completed:   | Yes/No | Date: |
|                               | EQIA Required and Completed:   | Yes/No | Date: |
| Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)  | Screening Completed  | Yes/No | Date: |
|                               | RNA Required and Completed:  | Yes/No | Date: |
|                               | Screening Completed:   | Yes/No | Date: |

|  |                              |        |       |
|--|------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) |                              |        |       |
|  | DPIA Required and Completed: | Yes/No | Date: |

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The Purpose of the report is to present a request from Council’s Prosperity & Place Department for the use of The Council Chamber to run the *Coleraine Future Town Fund (CFTF) Board Meetings*. Members will recall that this project sits as Action 32 in the Causeway Community Plan and as such reports into council via the Community Planning Partnership.

## 1.2 Background

The Council has received confirmation that the ‘Long-Term Plan for Towns’ programme (which includes the £20m Coleraine Future Town Fund) is to be retained and reformed by the current UK government and will now be called the ‘**Plan for Neighbourhoods**’. The first CFTF Board meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## 1.3 Proposals

Officers are proposing that all future CFTF Board meetings take place in the Council Chamber. It should be noted that CFTF Board meetings are currently scheduled to take place *every last Thursday of every month*, however this meeting schedule may be revised pending the requirements of Board members and the overall programme. Should there be any changes to the meeting schedule, a further report will be presented to this committee.

### **Requirements:**

- Council Chamber – Capacity is required for currently up to 41 attending each board meeting (comprising 17 representatives from community, voluntary, business and public sectors, 1 MP, 6 Elected Members, 5 MLA Observers and 4 Departmental observers, with project support staff (5 Council officers and 3 SIB officers).
- Bann Gallery required for pre-meeting refreshments to be served and break out sessions.
- IT support for audio/visual set-up and to enable remote access for virtual attendees.

## 1.4 Plan for Neighbourhoods Update March 2025

The UK Government formally announced the launch of the 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Further information can be accessed at [Plan for Neighbourhoods: prospectus and tools - GOV.UK](#)

Members are asked to note the enhanced list of investment interventions in the prospectus, and the following key milestone dates for the updated programme:

### Important dates:

- 22 April 2025: Neighbourhood Boards confirm finalised membership and any proposals to alter their place boundaries.
- Spring 2025 to winter 2025: Neighbourhood Boards submit their Regeneration Plan to MHCLG for assessment and approval.
- From April 2026: Programme delivery funding released to local authorities, and delivery phase begins.

A meeting of the Coleraine Future Town Fund Board will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 to review and consider the existing boundary map for the funding and agree the final board membership in order to meet the deadline for confirmation of these to the UK Government on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.

A further report will be brought to Council with any proposed updates or changes to the boundary map and/or membership of the board as a result of the updated government guidance and programme requirements.

## 2.0 Recommendation

**It is recommended** that the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee consider and agree the request from Council's Prosperity & Place Department for the use of the Council Chamber to hold Coleraine Future Town Fund board meetings.

It is further recommended that the Committee notes the update on the Coleraine Future Town Fund (Plan for Neighbourhoods).