

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>DfC Neighbourhood Renewal Technical Assistance Funding</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	Leisure & Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 September 2025
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Information
<b>To be discussed In Committee</b>	<b>NO</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
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

<b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b>	
Date to be Completed	31 March 2026

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

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

<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:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

**The purpose of this report is to inform Members of communications received from the Department for Communities (DfC) regarding its planned review of Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) Technical Assistance funding provided to Council.**

## **2.0 Background**

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, established in 2003, seeks to tackle deprivation in the 10% most deprived urban areas. It aims to empower local people to drive regeneration by building the capacity needed for meaningful participation.

A key element is the employment of Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Managers/Co-ordinators, funded through Technical Assistance. These roles support local engagement and capacity building.

In Belfast and Derry/Londonderry, these posts are employed by community organisations, while in other areas, including Causeway Coast and Glens, these posts are facilitated by Councils, using DfC funding.

## **3.0 Current position**

In Causeway Coast and Glens, Technical Assistance funding supports the Coleraine and Limavady NR Partnership Boards. It covers the employment of a Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator (serving both areas), administrative support, and running costs. The 2025–26 allocation was **£56,494**.

DfC have advised council officers that the community-based employment model used in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry is more effective in building local capacity and aligns more closely with the *People and Place Strategy*. It now intends to explore extending this model across all NR areas.

To progress this, DfC will establish a stakeholder working group, including Council representatives, from October 2025 to March 2026. The group will review options and develop an Action Plan for implementation in 2026/27 or as otherwise agreed.

Council officers will participate in the working group and update the Committee in due course.