

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Plan for Neighbourhoods (PfN) Coleraine Future Town Fund – Update Report</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	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>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b>	
Date to be Completed	

<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	<del>YES</del> /NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	<del>YES</del> /NO

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

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

**The Purpose of this report is to provide a progress report to the Committee on the Coleraine Future Town Fund (CFTF), and request that Elected Members participate in the online public consultation exercise which is currently live.**

**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.**

## **2.0 Background**

The UK Government formally announced the launch of the 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' (PfN) on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Further information and guidance can be accessed at:

[Plan for Neighbourhoods: prospectus and tools - GOV.UK](#)

[Plan for Neighbourhoods: Regeneration Plan guidance - GOV.UK](#)

[Plan for Neighbourhoods: Data packs - GOV.UK](#)

Through this programme Coleraine has been awarded funding of £19.537 million to support the development and delivery of a 10 Year Regeneration Plan (and 4 Year Investment Plan). This Regeneration plan will deliver on local priorities across 3 core programme objectives identified by the UK Government:

- Thriving places.
- Stronger communities.
- Taking back control.

The plan provides the vision and strategy for planning and implementing the regeneration of Coleraine over the next 10 years and acts as a business case to draw down the £19.537m funding from MHCLG. The CFTF investment is a flexible fund which will be split between 25% resource and 75% capital expenditure.

Members will note that the Plan for Neighbourhoods has an extensive list of pre-approved investment interventions which the funding can support:

- Regeneration, high streets and heritage.
- Housing.
- Work, productivity and skills.
- Cohesion.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Transport.
- Safety and security.
- Education and opportunity.

The funding can also utilise a range of levers and flexibilities to drive improvement and unlock barriers to regeneration and development.

Causeway Coast & Glen Borough Council is the Accountable Body for the funding with responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the [Nolan Principles](#) and [Managing Public Money](#) principles. The council is also responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement.

A new neighbourhood board, the Coleraine Future Town Fund (CFTF) Board, was established in January 2025 to support the development of the 10 Year Investment Plan for Coleraine and to identify and agree the funding priorities for the plan.

The CFTF aligns with existing strategies and delivery structures the council is already involved in or planning including the Local Economic Partnership, Labour Market Partnership and PCSP.

### **3.0     Key Dates:**

Key milestone dates set by MHCLG which the CFTF Board is required to meet are set out below:

- **22 April 2025:** Neighbourhood Boards confirm finalised membership and any proposals to alter their place boundaries.

A meeting of the Coleraine Future Town Fund Board was held on the 27th of March 2025 to review and consider the existing boundary map for the funding and agree the final board membership. The CFTF Board proposed the following additions to the funding boundary: the Cranagh, Somerset Forest, Mount Sandal, Somerset Riverside Walk & Picnic area, the Cutts. MHCLG approved these proposals with these areas now included to help maximise heritage, tourism, the river and health & well-being opportunities in the CFTF area. See attached final approved funding boundary map below:

[CFTF Funding Boundary | Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council](#)

MHCLG also approved the CFTF Board structure and membership.

- **28<sup>th</sup> November 2025:** CFTF Board to submit the Coleraine 10 Year Regeneration Plan (and 4 Year Investment Plan) to MHCLG for assessment and approval.
- **From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026:** Programme delivery funding released to local authorities, and delivery phase begins.

### **4.0     CFTF Board**

The CFTF Board meets on a monthly basis, with key highlights to date including:

1. Established four operational subgroups (High Street & Regeneration, Transport & Connectivity, Safety & security, Stakeholder Engagement) which also meet monthly.
2. Appointed four Deputy Chairs to chair the subgroups.
3. Developed and agreed key governance documents:
  - a. Terms of Reference for the CFTF Board and subgroups setting out processes to manage conflicts of interest and declarations of interest, as well as Board conduct.
  - b. A Local Assurance Framework (LAF) which puts in place systems and processes to ensure the Board implements accountable decision-making, value for money and effective monitoring and evaluation of projects. The Framework is closely aligned to Council policies and procedures which apply to all the activities in which Coleraine Future Town Fund Board are involved. The Board will work closely with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (as the Accountable Body) in fulfilling its LAF.
4. Participated in a Coleraine walkabout and River trip to view the town centre and the river and discuss key issues, strengths and opportunities. The Board also undertook a visioning exercise to help shape what a future Coleraine might look like.

5. Designed a dedicated Coleraine Future Fund logo and marketing collateral, including a CFTF Newsletter, with a wide range of communications and marketing activities to support and promote the community engagement programme.
6. Developed and currently implementing an extensive programme of community engagement which was launched on 18<sup>th</sup> June at the new campus for the Northern Regional College in Coleraine, and with a closing event taking place on 24<sup>th</sup> September, again at Coleraine's new Northern Regional College. **Annex A** provides a full list of the CFTF stakeholder engagement events which have taken place to date, as well as details of forthcoming events taking place over the next month. This includes engagement with local communities, local businesses, schools, public sector agencies, Coleraine DEA Elected Members, as well as special interest groups such as young people, arts, heritage & culture, sports, S75, and the Causeway Equality forum. More details can also be found in **Annex B**, Project Newsletter June/July.
7. Development of an online public consultation survey which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFTF2025>. The survey will be open until the stakeholder engagement programme finishes at the end of September, with 505 responses received to date. Sentiment surveys have also been developed for use at special interest events such as Coleraine market days, river users, arts, heritage & culture etc.
8. Using capacity funding already received from MHCLG a budget has been agreed by the Board to work with local community representatives to support the design and delivery of neighbourhood engagement events that brings together local residents and special interest groups in their local areas. Community groups can access funding to cover the cost of hosting the event, and can tap into advice, support and capacity building from the CFTF Team to help host and run the event. This initiative will ensure that the voices of local people across Coleraine who may not typically take part in this type of engagement, have a say in the planning and regeneration of Coleraine.
9. Establishing a Task & Finish Group from Board Members and Council officers to review and establish criteria and processes for a prioritisation and selection framework for CFTF projects.

The Leisure & Development Committee are asked to note the progress report on the Coleraine Future Town Fund (Plan for Neighbourhoods). Members are also invited to complete the online CFTF public survey which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFTF2025> and are asked to share this link with community networks and key contacts.

**CFTF Engagement Events to date**

- Launch Event - 18<sup>th</sup> June (100 + attendees).
- Primary School event – 19<sup>th</sup> June (60+ children).
- Post Primary School Event – 19<sup>th</sup> June (30 pupils).
- Teacher Event online – 26<sup>th</sup> June ( 1 participant).
- Business Breakfast – Lodge Hotel – 3rd July (60+ attendees).
- Community Pre event and NR mobilising event 3<sup>rd</sup> July (6 attendees).
- Community Conversation – Lodge Hotel- 8<sup>th</sup> July (90+ attendees).
- Business Drop in Events Town Hall – 21<sup>st</sup> July – (8 businesses).
- Walk Shop with Equality Forum – Town Hall, and CRUN – 24<sup>th</sup> July (12 participants).
- Coleraine Market 26<sup>th</sup> July (plus 2 other in 9<sup>th</sup> Aug/13<sup>th</sup> Sept) (35 interviews).
- The Heights community football event – 28<sup>th</sup> July – The Heights (40+surveys)
- Bid Event – 28<sup>th</sup> July Town Hall – (10 participants).
- River users event –Cuts House - 5<sup>th</sup> Aug.
- Arts and Heritage workshop – 27<sup>th</sup> Aug.
- Business Drop in Events – Town Hall– 5<sup>th</sup> Aug– 10+ businesses booked.
- Community fun days and sports events during August & Sept.
- Coleraine 2036: Imagine, Inspire Influence – Local Neighbourhood events Aug/Sept. Millburn 21<sup>st</sup> Aug.

**Upcoming CFTF Engagement Events**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Conversation - 4<sup>th</sup> September @ 10.00 to 1.30.
- NRC Student Engagement, Anderson Park - 11<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- Attending Coleraine Market – 13<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- Community Events during September.
  - Ballysally fun day - 13<sup>th</sup> Sept Millburn – Date TBC.
  - West Bann Bingo evening – Sept.
  - Harpur's Hill – Sept
  - Windy Hall event Sept
- Coleraine DEA Elected member engagement session – 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- PCSP Event 4<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Youth Voice engagement session – 6<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Anderson Park, NRC Students 11<sup>th</sup> September
- Statutory body engagement sessions 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Ulster University Staff Engagement session – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept
- Sports Engagement session – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept
- Council Heads of Service engagement workshop – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept
- River users Engagement session – 24<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Coleraine Football Club – Engagement session – TBC
- Other S75 groups – Sept
- Closing Event, NRC -24<sup>th</sup> September
- Sub-Groups x 4 – Sept, Oct & Nov.