Title of Report:	Update on Progress - Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan
Committee Submitted To:	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	27 January 2026
For Decision/For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Themes	Local Economy; Healthy and Engaged Communities; Climate Change and Our Environment
Outcome	Establish key relationships with strategic partners to deliver our vision for this Council area
Lead Officer	Head of Policy and Community Planning

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	**YES/NO**
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	**YES/NO**
Legal Opinion Obtained	**YES/NO**

Screening Requirements	*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 Introduction

1.1 The Community Plan is a long-term plan (from 2017 to 2030) based on sound, robust evidence with a focus on improving social, economic and environmental well-being and contributing to sustainable development.

1.2 The Community Plan is a strategic planning tool for the Causeway Coast and Glens area, and it is the key over-arching framework for partnerships and initiatives in the Council area. It is not seen as an additional or parallel process to structures already in place.

1.3 Phase 1 of the community planning process was the development of a Strategic Framework for the Community Plan. This document was finalised in April 2017 and officially launched in June 2017. It outlines the high-level outcomes identified for the Causeway Coast and Glens area based on an extensive public consultation process and a statistical analysis of the area.

1.4 Phase 2 of the community planning process was the development of a comprehensive Delivery Plan in 2018 which put in place 44 practical actions and activities to achieve the outcomes identified in the Strategic Framework. This Delivery Plan was reviewed in 2022 and now contains 34 actions covering four thematic areas:

1) Health and Wellbeing
2) Community/Community Safety
3) Infrastructure/Environment
4) Economy/Education/Tourism.

1.5 Phase 3 of the community planning process put in place mechanisms to monitor and report on performance against the Community Plan objectives/outcomes. An Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) process has been utilised to monitor and report on performance with Action Leads using report cards to provide information on progress.

2.0 Review of the Delivery Plan

2.1 A collaboration workshop for community planning partners took place in Portballintrae in May with input from the Department for Communities on the people and places review and the collaboration test and learn programme. A facilitated discussion then took place at the on the challenges and barriers to further collaboration in Causeway Coast and Glens as well as the potential opportunities and actions.

2.2 At the Community Planning Partnership Meeting in July 2025, members took a detailed look at the feedback report on the workshop and, during a facilitated discussion, developed their thoughts on how to progress collaborative planning in Causeway Coast and Glens.

2.3 It was agreed that this process should involve a full review of the Delivery Plan and, to progress this, consultation sessions with key stakeholders were organised along with the issue of a public consultation survey.

2.4 At the Partnership meeting on 12ᵗʰ November 2025, the Community Planning Partners were given a presentation outlining key feedback from the survey and the consultation sessions. It was noted that, as a result, it was proposed to reduce the number of "actions" in the Delivery Plan to 16 from 31 with a focus now on moving from "actions" to "strategic priority areas", ensuring these had a problem solving and collaborative focus.

2.5 The Community Planning Partnership endorsed the following strategic priority areas of work for inclusion in the revised Delivery Plan, subject to further discussion at Thematic Working Lead level on wording and scope:

Health and Wellbeing –

1. Encouraging Healthy Active Lifestyles
2. Supporting and Championing Older People
3. Tackling Poverty
4. Investing Early: Improving Outcomes for Children and Families, and Communities
5. Promoting Positive Mental Health with a specific focus on addressing loneliness.

Community and Community Safety –

6. Addressing Vulnerability: Supporting vulnerable people, including older people, multi- agency support hub and cyber safety, ending violence against women and girls and drugs and alcohol.
7. Young Voices – Continuation of Youth Voice and scope the potential development of Youth Council
8. Positive Relationships and Spaces
9. Strengthening Community & Voluntary Sector Collaboration and Support

Infrastructure and Environment –

10. Explore/Develop/Maintain Public Spaces (Including Natural & Built Heritage & Pride in the environment)
11. Meet Local Housing Needs (including Interagency Cooperation Homelessness)
12. Local Transport (developing a transport policy statement for the CCG area)
13. Climate Change Strategy for the CCG area

Economic/Education /Tourism –

14. Harness Economic and Skills Potential (Incorporating the Growth Deal, Labour Market Partnership (LMP) & Local Economic Partnership (LEP)
15. Tourism & Recreation support in partnership with Tourism Ni & Tourism Ireland
16. Delivery of new £20m Coleraine Town Fund

2.6 The next steps in the process will be for the Thematic Working Leads to meet to consider the wording and scope of these priority areas, consider possible actions under each priority area, explore what organisations would need to be involved and where the lead for each strategic priority should rest.

3.0 Other Business

3.1 Draft Statement of Progress

The Community Planning Officers presented the draft Statement of Progress for consideration by the Partnership. This document utilises a range of indicators to show where there has been changes within the Causeway Coast and Glens area (positive and negative) and it also highlights a range of local initiatives under the auspices of community planning which demonstrate the advantages of working together, achieving together.

The draft Statement of Progress was approved by the Partnership and will now be finalised and published on the Community Planning section of the Council website by the end of November 2025.

3.2 Update from the Community/Voluntary Sector

It was noted that the Volunteer Fair which had taken place in Ballymoney in September had been well attended. There was a need for young people to get involved in volunteering and NACN and CRUN had received Lotto funding to deliver Succession Planning Training to try to encourage younger people to participate.

3.3 DAERA Rural Policy Co-Design Sessions

The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) are currently working to develop a new evidence-based rural policy through a collaborative co-design process with key rural stakeholders. Co-design workshops took place over the summer period involving a range of stakeholders, following which draft rural policy proposals had been developed. A full public consultation exercise is to take place in 2026.

Several of the draft policy proposals referred to alignment with existing Community Planning Strategic Partnerships and DAERA are keen to explore how this opportunity can strike a new balance in the relationship between central and local government to support rural communities. DAERA have now invited Community Planning Officers to participate in a co-design session to help inform and shape the rural policy proposals which refer to community planning.