



Title of Report:	Correspondence Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 February 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Decision / For Information
For discussion In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure & Development

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	N/A

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

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	N/A
Legal Opinion Obtained	N/A

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 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Correspondence for Members consideration.

2.0 The following items are listed:

2.1 Correspondence from Committee Members of Ballymoney Community Centre, Edward Street regarding celebrating 70 years (Dated 30 January 2026).

The Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer have written on behalf of their members to request that council marks their 70th year by considering a flowerbed in Ballymoney as part of their celebrations.

3.0 Correspondence from Committee for Communities regarding local councils and the Anti- Poverty Strategy. (Dated 06 February 2026)

3.1 The Committee is holding a dedicated meeting on 8th March to provide councils to highlight strategic priorities prior to finalisation of the Executive Strategy.

3.2 Key areas for discussion will be:

- **Consultation Feedback** - Key issues raised by each council in its response to the draft strategy.
- **Local Interventions** – Overview of council's current anti-poverty framework along with examples of successful interventions.
- **Integration** – How the final Strategy can best align with local action plans to avoid duplication.

4.0 Recommendation

The Leisure & Development Committee are asked to note the correspondence from the Committee for Communities and consider the request from Ballymoney Community Centre.

31st Jan 2026

Dear Mrs Kate Mulvenna,

I am writing again on behalf of the Ballymoney Community Centre, Edward Street. Our organisation began in 1956 & this year we will celebrate 70 years & our membership now totals more than one hundred members. My last letter dated 25th April 2025 requested the Council in Ballymoney to consider a flower bed to celebrate our 70 years as an organisation, we would appreciate this very much.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Monson Secretary
Suzanne Poole Chairperson
Isobel Dunlop Treasurer.



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES

Room 430
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

06 February 2026
Our ref: CC/26/054

David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
14 Charles Street
Ballymoney
BT53 6DZ

david.jackson@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Dear David

Local Councils and the Anti-Poverty Strategy

Further to correspondence issued to all local councils in autumn 2025 on anti-poverty actions and tackling deprivation, the Committee for Communities agreed at its meeting on 8 January 2026 to hold a dedicated meeting on these matters on Thursday 5 March 2026.

The Committee has consistently emphasised the importance of an effective Anti-Poverty Strategy and also highlighted the vital role local councils play in addressing economic deprivation.

The Committee has reviewed the responses received from councils to date, noting the diverse range of frameworks and action plans currently operational across the region.

Following the close of the Department's public consultation on the draft Anti-Poverty Strategy in September 2025, the Committee is now keen to scrutinise the Department's progress toward a final updated strategy and associated action plan(s).

Members believe it is essential to ensure that the specific needs of local government, and the feedback provided during the consultation, are fully reflected in the final outcome.

The 5 March meeting is intended as an opportunity for councils to highlight their strategic priorities to the Committee before the Executive Strategy is finalised. Specifically, Members are keen to discuss:

- **Consultation Feedback:** The key issues raised by each council in its response to the draft strategy, and your assessment of whether the Department's proposed "whole of Government" approach sufficiently integrates local delivery partners.
- **Local Interventions:** A brief overview of the Council's current anti-poverty framework and examples of successful local interventions that should be supported by the regional Strategy.
- **Integration:** Recommendations on how the final Strategy can best align with local action plans to avoid duplication and maximise resource efficiency.

The meeting will take place from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm in Parliament Buildings. We plan to arrange three evidence sessions, with three to four councils represented on each panel.

The Committee is happy to facilitate the attendance of one representative from each council. The Committee has previously suggested that Chief Executives may be best placed to speak to these strategic issues, though you may nominate another senior officer / Director as appropriate.

Please confirm the name of the Council's attendee. The Committee team will follow up with specific logistical details in due course.

Yours sincerely

Emer Boyle

Clerk to the Committee for Communities