



Present Members: Alderman Knight-McQuillan, Councillor Mairs (Chair), McShane, Peacock

**Officers: Amanda Hamilton, Democratic and Central Services Manager
Patricia Harkin, Good Relations Manager
Adele McCloskey, Community Development Officer
Ursula Harper, Committee and Member Services Officer**

Agenda No.	Item	ACTION
1.	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from Alderman Boyle.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	There were no Declarations of Interest.	
3.	International Women’s Day – Sunday, March 8th 2026 Theme “Give To Gain”	
	DCSM provided an overview of the International Women’s Day (IWD) theme and information on the toolkit. She advised that the theme centred around a mindset of generosity and collaboration. She suggested that female Elected Members could pose in the “hands held out” stance for promotional images, as shown in the IWD planning toolkit. She noted that the IWD toolkit suggested that events could be used as an opportunity to support non-profit	

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	<p>organisations. She suggested that the IWD branding could be used as a web background for the month of March. She stated that there is some funding available in the civic projects budget if it were decided that Council should purchase the IWD toolkit.</p>	
4.	Ideas from the group – for discussion	
	<p>Councillor Peacock stated that use of the IWD branding was a good idea. She suggested an IWD event for networking and creating opportunities, involving Council staff, Councillors, women’s groups and women in the community from across the Borough, with a focus on community rather than business.</p> <p>GRM advised that Good Relations are running a bus campaign from 23 February – 22 March 2026 with the logo “together building inclusive communities”, which will have the IWD branding added to it, as well as the Council and funders logos. She suggested that some promotional material could be purchase, either with the IWD logo on it, or without the IWD logo so that it can be used throughout the year.</p> <p>Alderman Knight-McQuillan stated that the university events tend to focus on high-powered women, and she would like the Council event to look at supporting women who chose not to go into business, who chose to stay home with their families, those who childmind, and those who are involved in their local community. She said the event should remember the value of every woman, not just the high-flyers. She suggested that funds raised go towards a local charity, such as Women’s Aid.</p> <p>Councillor Peacock agreed and stated that the focus of the event should be recognising the contribution of all women, at all stages of their life.</p>	

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	<p>CDO stated that there are EVAWAG community conferences being organised in late March, through the organisations that received funding. She suggested that IWD could be linked to these.</p> <p>DCSM suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media cards to be run on Comms in advance of IWD • Photo opportunities • Use IWD banner on email signature • Use IWD banner on web meeting background • IWD branded “save the date” to be used along with Council branding. • Talk to ICT about building an IWD webpage • Run a series of videos across the day and share these on webpage <p>Councillor Mairs suggested that Councillor McShane, as Diversity Champion, could feature in a promotional video. Councillor McShane stated that she was happy to do that, and she also expressed support for the use of IWD branding in email signatures. She further suggested that Group Party Leads could be asked to circulate the signatures for use by members within their parties.</p> <p>Councillor Peacock suggested that Party group leaders could organise for Members to get involved.</p> <p>It was felt that Council should be running its own event rather than only supporting those organised by other organisations. Councillor Watson suggested an event celebrating women from all walks of life from across the Borough. It was stated that an invite-only event would help with planning and managing numbers. Suggested invitees were: women’s groups from</p>	

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	<p>across the Borough, the Hen's shed, women who run mums and tots groups across the Borough, and Women's Aid, possibly with an information stand. Councillor Mairs suggested that the EA youth forum could be invited.</p> <p>It was suggested that there could be yoga and mindfulness events run in each civic building, and a women's health event run in Cloonavin, with speakers on women's health.</p> <p>It was suggested that, due to the delay with getting the Women's Working Group minutes through the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, the actions discussed in this meeting could be raised when the previous set of Women's Working Group minutes are brought for agreement at the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting immediately following this working group, to expedite the process.</p> <p>A suggestion was made that Women's Aid could perhaps have a stand at the event.</p> <p>It was agreed to focus the events solely in Cloonavin for this year's IWD as it is Council's headquarters.</p> <p>AGREED – to request approval at the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee that the Women's Working Group should purchase the International Women's Day toolkit and run International Women's Day events.</p> <p>AGREED – that Councillor Mairs, as Chair, and DCSM have a further meeting to develop an outline of the Council IWD event and any other activities to be brought back to the next WWG meeting.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Chair/DCMS</p>

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	Councillor Mairs asked that any further suggestions or ideas be shared with DCMS in the coming days, to feed into the event planning.	
5.	IWD Planning Toolkit:	
	<p>chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://internationalwomensday.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/resources/IWD-2026-Toolkit-GiveToGain.pdf</p> <p>This was discussed under earlier Items.</p>	
6.	Any Other Relevant Business	
	There were no Items of AORB.	
7.	Date of next meeting	
	Tuesday 24 February 2026 at 6pm.	

This being all the business the meeting closed at 6.51pm