



Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	3 March 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)			
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership		
Outcome	Council operates as one effective and efficient corporate unit with a common purpose and culture		
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services		
Estimated Timescale for Completion			
Date to be Completed	N/A		
Budgetary Considerations			
Cost of Proposal			
Included in Current Year Estimates	No		
Capital/Revenue	N/A		
Code	N/A		
Staffing Costs	N/A		
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 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

1.2 The following correspondence has been received:

2.0 Gail Downey, Riding for the Disabled Association (email dated 17 February 2026, copy attached)

2.1 Re: Gala Ball

Extract

On behalf of RDA Causeway Coast & Glens, I am writing to invite Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council to support our Biennial RDA Ball, taking place on Saturday 14 November in the Bushtown Hotel, Coleraine. This event is our largest and most vital fundraiser, and we would very much welcome the Council's support through the purchase of tickets (£75 each) or a table.

Our RDA group is entirely volunteer-led and receives no government or statutory funding, yet we deliver a vital, cross-community service to the people of this council area. Through the power of horses and high-quality equestrian facilities, we support multiple statutory priorities, including health, education, justice, inclusion, and community wellbeing. Our service users include, but are not limited to:-

- Children and young people across the full and complex spectrum covered by the term disabled – working with local schools and colleges as well as individuals referred to us through Social Services*
- Young people experiencing disadvantage, trauma, or significant personal challenges – working with our Local Health Board Multi-Disciplinary Team and Women's Aid*
- Those excluded from mainstream education, delivering curriculum linked equine assisted programmes*
- Probationers, individuals on community service, and prisoners from Magilligan as they approach the end of their sentences — providing structured placements, helping them rebuild the confidence & responsibility to reintegrate into society*
- Our elderly community, offering connection, purpose, and joy through meaningful engagement with our herd*

We believe this breadth of work makes our RDA group a significant asset to the local council area. We own and operate our own 22-acre premises, which includes, what we are proud to say, are the best equestrian facilities in Northern Ireland. In addition to our therapeutic and community programmes, we also provide BHS-approved riding lessons to able-bodied local residents in the evenings, ensuring our centre is active, inclusive, and rooted in the wider community.

As already mentioned, despite this scale and impact, we receive no public funding. Our work is sustained through fundraising, donations, and a modest income from

arena hire — income which falls far short of covering the true costs of running and maintaining our centre and caring for our horses year-round.

The Ball is therefore essential to ensuring that we can continue delivering these services safely, professionally, and sustainably. Support from the Council would not only help secure our future but would also publicly recognise the value of a service that proactively supports health, education, justice, and community wellbeing within your area.

We would be delighted to welcome representatives from the Council to attend the Ball as an acknowledgement of the Council's support.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do on behalf of our community. We would be very happy to provide further information or discuss our work in more detail if that might be helpful.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council considers the correspondence and contact RDA directly if they wish to purchase a ticket.

From: Gail Wilson Downey (Chair)

Date: 17 February 2026

To: Elected Members of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Cc: Chief Executive Officer

Re: Invitation to Support Our Biennial RDA Fundraising Ball –
Saturday 14 November 2026



On behalf of RDA Causeway Coast & Glens, I am writing to invite Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council to support our Biennial RDA Ball, taking place on Saturday 14 November in the Bushtown Hotel, Coleraine. This event is our largest and most vital fundraiser, and we would very much welcome the Council's support through the purchase of tickets (£75 each) or a table.

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- Young people experiencing disadvantage, trauma, or significant personal challenges – working with our Local Health Board Multi-Disciplinary Team and Women's Aid
- Those excluded from mainstream education, delivering curriculum linked equine assisted programmes
- Probationers, individuals on community service, and prisoners from Magilligan as they approach the end of their sentences — providing structured placements, helping them rebuild the confidence & responsibility to reintegrate into society
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As already mentioned, despite this scale and impact, we receive no public funding. Our work is sustained through fundraising, donations, and a modest income from arena hire — income which falls far short of covering the true costs of running and maintaining our centre and caring for our horses year-round.

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Thank you for your time and for the work you do on behalf of our community. We would be very happy to provide further information or discuss our work in more detail if that might be helpful.

With Kindest Regards

Gail

Gail Wilson Downey (Chair)

RDA Causeway Coast & Glens

RDA Causeway Coast & Glens
Winner of The Queens Award for Voluntary Service
184 Castleroe Road, Coleraine

Charity No NIC106687