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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Title of Report:</b>               | <b>USA 250 Programme Minutes</b> |
| <b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b> | Leisure & Development Committee  |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>               | 16 June 2026                     |
| <b>For Decision</b>                   | For Information                  |
| <b>To be discussed in Committee</b>   | NO                               |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2026-31)</b> |  |
| Strategic Theme                              | Priority 2: Empowering and supporting our people   |
| Outcome                                      | A Council which reflects the diversity of our community and creates an inclusive culture where everyone can thrive |
| Lead Officer                                 | Head of Community & Culture; Head of Performance   |

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b> |               |
| Date to be Completed                      | December 2026 |

|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Budgetary Considerations</b>    |                                   |
| Cost of Proposal                   | Under review                      |
| Included in Current Year Estimates | Special events reserve budget     |
| Capital/Revenue                    | Revenue                           |
| Code                               | tbc                               |
| Staffing Costs                     | Included within existing budgets. |

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| <b>Legal Considerations</b>      |    |
| Input of Legal Services Required | No |
| Legal Opinion Obtained           | No |

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

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

**The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the minutes of Council's USA 250 Working Group Meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026, and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.**

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 26 June 2025, Council approved a Notice of Motion establishing a USA250 Working Group to explore opportunities to mark the 250th anniversary of American Independence. The group was established in recognition of the strong historic, cultural and diaspora links between the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough and the United States.
- 2.2 Since then, the Working Group has continued to engage with Council services, Ulster University and external stakeholders. This has resulted in a multi strand programme combining cultural celebration, heritage interpretation, economic development, arts programming and food heritage.

## **3.0 Programme Overview**

- 3.1 The USA250 programme is structured across five interlinked strands: a flagship civic celebration; an economic development export initiative; a museum and heritage programme; an arts and community engagement programme; and a food and drink heritage initiative.
- 3.2 Together, these strands aim to celebrate shared heritage, strengthen transatlantic connections, and deliver cultural, civic and economic benefit for the Borough. Estimated participants include over 11,000 individuals and 6-10 businesses across the various elements of the programme.

Minutes from the Working Group are attached in **Annex A**.

Annex A

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p><b>Causeway<br/>Coast &amp; Glens<br/>Borough Council</b></p> | <p><b>USA 250 Working Group<br/>Monday 30 March 2026, 7pm<br/>Via Microsoft Teams</b></p> |
|--|---|

**Present:**

**Elected Members** Ald A. Callan (Chair), Cllrs P. Anderson, T. Elder, R. Holmes L. Kane, D. Nicholl, L. Peacock

**Officers** S. Calvin, N. McGurk, P. Mulvenna, P. Thompson, J. Welsh

**External Organisations** N. Dalcz (UU), D. Morrow (UU)

| NO. |   | ACTIONS |
|-----|---|---------|
| 1.  | <b>Welcome</b>  |         |
|     | The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.  |         |
| 2.  | <b>Apologies</b>  |         |
|     | Apologies received from:<br>G. Fall (CCGBC), M. O'Neill (UU)  |         |
| 3.  | <b>Notes of the Previous Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>   |         |
|     | Previously circulated, no issues raised.  |         |
| 4.  | <b>Update from Joint Council Meeting</b>  |         |
|     | <p>J Welsh provided an update following the meeting earlier today.</p> <p><b>ANDBC</b> – Planning is currently behind. The NoM has now been submitted and has still to be presented at Committee. A working group has been formed to develop plans.</p> <p><b>ANBC</b> – Focusing on theming of 2 existing events rather than spreading activities throughout the year. Ballyclare May Fair, a weeklong event in May, and Party in the Park which takes place over the August bank holiday.</p> <p>Conflict in Iran was raised and the need to be mindful when planning/promoting activities as negative comments have already been received.</p> |         |

| NO. |   | ACTIONS |
|-----|---|---------|
|     | <p><b>MEA</b> – Programme with a museum/cultural focus, rebranding of existing activities. Goodwill Festival in June.</p> <p><b>LCBC</b> – No update was available.</p> <p>The Chair mentioned that they are planning a twinning event between Hillsborough and North Carolina.</p> <p><b>Budget</b> - Only one council has requested additional budget of approx. £10k. All other councils are working within existing budgets.</p> <p>No joint branding is being developed. CCG will act as depositary for programmes to combine and share. Agreed to meet again in a month's time.</p> |         |
| 5.  | <b>CC&amp;G Draft Activities Update &amp; Review</b>  |         |
|     | The Chair referred to the update reports previously circulated and requested that as the details are contained within, only queries raised will be covered under each section.  |         |
| 5.1 | <p><b>Museums Programme</b><br/> <b>USA 250: Showbusiness, Culture and the Causeway Coast</b></p>   |         |
|     | No queries raised.  |         |
| 5.2 | <b>Arts Programme</b>   |         |
|     | No queries raised.  |         |
| 5.3 | <b>4<sup>th</sup> July Signature Event</b>  |         |
|     | <p>L Kane requested an update on the evening programme of events and the showcasing of the local community.</p> <p>P Thompson provided an update on progress to date. Representatives from UU were also in attendance.</p> <p>P Thompson referred to the draft programme circulated. This will be a joint event with the University of Ulster utilising the marquee on campus and will incorporate both musical and academic elements. It will be family friendly with the focus being on how Northern Ireland has impacted the USA over the last 250 years.</p>                          |         |

| NO. |   | ACTIONS             |
|-----|---|---------------------|
|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact has been made with local expertise. Recently met Portrush Music Society and discussed options with an American link such as Hamilton. Discussions also to be had with Ballywillan.</li> <li>• Met with Sollus Promotions who can provide a 40min condensed version of the play 'The Unfinished Broadside' which would be the main event of the evening. A decision is required on whether to include this and approval of the associated cost. L Kane advised care should be taken regarding the rights of use.</li> <li>• The main event would have a wraparound of local talent/involvement. Partnering with the community is important with the USA angle. This connection makes the whole event genuine under current circumstances.</li> </ul> <p>Stage Management was discussed which is crucial for a professional production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would Sollus agree to stage manage the whole event. <i>UU made contact to check whether this could be an option and will report back.</i></li> <li>• Procurement exercise could be carried out as there is local talent available.</li> <li>• UU advised they have a company contracted for events who can source quality acts and provide stage management. <i>UU to look into costs for an evening event and will report back.</i></li> </ul> <p>Feedback was received on the format of the event.</p> <p>P Anderson raised concerns that the tribute style act was now being replaced with a play. The event should not all be theatre/academical based. P Thompson advised that there is music/dance included in the play and that both council and UU agree that it will have a light academical touch.</p> <p>L Kane referred to discussion at the previous meeting which highlighted 2 elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daytime – Family fair type event with food trucks/exhibitions/storytelling.</li> <li>• Evening – Sit down ticketed event with music/dance/theatre.</li> </ul> <p>L Peacock also mentioned the expansion of the Atlantic Sessions with jazz/blues and the link with the evolvment of music mentioned at the last meeting.</p> | <p>UU</p> <p>UU</p> |

| NO. |   | ACTIONS   |
|-----|---|-----------|
|     | <p>There was general agreement that the event planning seemed to be going in a different direction from originally discussed.</p> <p>With concerns over using the marquee for 2 events, as discussed at the last meeting, with limited time for turnaround, P Thompson suggested an evening outdoor event following on from the marquee programme which could have more live musical acts/amusements/food trucks and a fireworks display as a finale. Would require an estimated additional £25k. Mixed opinions were expressed around inclusion of a fireworks display and whether it would be suitable.</p> <p>L Peacock reminded all that the event should not be a replication of what is happening in the US, the event needs to be based on connections, and the influence NI has had on the USA. L Kane also agreed that it should be focused on recognition of the impact NI has had on the development of the US, not a celebration of the US.</p> <p>J Welsh was concerned the current programme was not family friendly and an outdoor style event may be more so. The budget for fireworks and timeline for gaining budgetary approval from council was also highlighted, and reference was made to a spreadsheet previously circulated. £60k listed is the current conservative estimate.</p> <p>Regarding budget the Chair reminded all that the air show did not take place and that there is the strategic events fund. This would be the signature event for 2026. P Anderson agreed that this was a one-off opportunity.</p> <p>Following further discussion, P Thompson said can look at altering the format but would need to watch the quality, relevance and also associated cost.</p> <p>Things to be considered prior to reporting back at the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme which must be developed around the contribution that NI has made to the USA.</li> <li>• Potential 2 elements to the event. What a daytime event could contain.</li> <li>• UU to confirm that the site can be used for outdoor daytime / evening event if required</li> <li>• Family friendly elements and the involvement of the local community.</li> <li>• Negotiations with Sollus regarding 'The Unfinished Broadway' and what this would look like.</li> </ul> | <p>PT</p> |

| NO.        |   | ACTIONS |
|------------|---|---------|
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall stage management.</li> <li>• Budget requirements.</li> </ul>   |         |
| <b>5.4</b> | <b>Economic Development Project – Global Gateway</b>  |         |
|            | LEP developed theme, Global Gateway which now links in with the USA. N McGurk advised that there have been no changes to that already tabled. A report was presented at the March L&D Committee, and the programme is fully funded by the LEP.  |         |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>PRONI Update</b>   |         |
|            | The representative was unable to join the meeting.  |         |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>Any Other Relevant Business</b>  |         |
|            | <p>The timeframe for approvals was discussed. It was agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled on the 13<sup>th</sup> April to allow a report to be presented to the L&amp;D Committee. Reports are due to be issued on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Any discussions with UU need to happen prior to Easter week closure.</p> <p>P Thompson advised he will do what he can prior to the next meeting within this tight timeline.</p> <p><b>Additional Proposals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Chair requested that a Thanksgiving dinner be considered as an additional event. Initial conversations have taken place with Paula McIntyre who will devise a menu. Bushmills Courthouse is the proposed venue for approx. 80. Will be similar to that arranged for NI 100. Would be a civic event so will need to engage with the civic team. General opinion from members was to agree to explore this event further. P Mulvenna enquired about potential cost per head. The Chair advised this would be explored further now members are supporting in principle this additional event.</li> <li>2) Tree planting with US consulate. Proposal to plant 1 tree per DEA with USA connection such as McKinley Park in Dervock. Fairly low cost for tree and associated plaque. Further discussion is required as to potential relevance and connection after members raised concerns.</li> </ol> |         |

| NO.       |  | ACTIONS |
|-----------|--|---------|
|           | D Nicholl asked about potential funding from the US for these events. The Chair advised that as these events were promoting our connections and contributions, funding would only come from council. |         |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  |         |
|           | Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April, 7pm.<br>The Chair thanked everyone for their input to date.   |         |



**Causeway  
Coast & Glens  
Borough Council**

**USA 250 Working Group  
Monday 13 April 2026, 7pm  
Via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:**

**Elected Members** Ald A. Callan (Chair), Cllrs P. Anderson, R. Holmes, L. Kane, D. Nicholl

**Officers** S. Calvin, P. Mulvenna, P. Thompson, J. Welsh

**External Organisations** N. Dalcz (UU), D. Huddleston (PRONI)

| <b>NO.</b> |   | <b>ACTIONS</b> |
|------------|---|----------------|
| <b>1.</b>  | <b>Welcome</b>  |                |
|            | The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced David Huddleston who will be providing an update from PRONI on the overarching USA 250 Working Group. |                |
| <b>2.</b>  | <b>Apologies</b>  |                |
|            | Apologies received from:<br>Cllrs T. Elder, L. Peacock. N. McGurk (CCG) D. Morrow, M. O'Neill (UU)  |                |
| <b>3.</b>  | <b>Notes of the Previous Meeting – 30th March</b>   |                |
|            | Previously circulated, no issues raised.  |                |
| <b>4.</b>  | <b>Matters Arising</b>  |                |
|            | None.   |                |
| <b>5.</b>  | <b>4<sup>th</sup> July Signature Event</b>  |                |
|            | P Thompson presented the updated draft programme following comments raised at the March meeting.<br><b>Afternoon Event</b>                                      |                |

| NO. |  | ACTIONS |
|-----|--|---------|
|     | <p>There will now be an afternoon family focused event, details are included in the programme circulated. An Americana element has been included to help appeal to younger attendees. Approximate cost is £25k subject to approval by the Leisure &amp; Development Committee.</p> <p><b>Evening Event</b></p> <p>Programme as circulated. Following a meeting with Sollus, they have agreed to stage manage the whole event which will be included within the £15k quoted. This includes timing, rehearsals, management of the green room etc.</p> <p>The Chair thanked officers for their work on the updated programme and opened to the floor for comments.</p> <p>L Kane asked that an American Football element be considered for the afternoon event, the Giants at Armoy, and can provide a contact if required. L Kane also asked about involvement of the local music societies in the evening event. P Thompson advised that discussions have taken place with Portrush Music Society, but they were waiting to see the outcome of this meeting. Anything would need to be cost neutral to them which would involve a potential cost for council. Discussions should also include Ballywillan. It was agreed that involving the local community was important.</p> <p>R Holmes said he had no issue with the programme but asked for a breakdown of the evening event, £57k seemed very high. P Thompson provided an overview which included production costs, marketing, infrastructure such as sound, lighting, staging etc. Any professional production has high costs whether it be for one day or a week.</p> <p>At this point P Thompson raised the potential issue with using the UU marquee now that the location and photos of the structure had been shared. It is fully glazed, suitable for the UU daytime event but would not work for creating the required setting for the evening. It has no structure for lighting and the location down past the theatre is not ideal. Sollus in their expertise would also prefer an indoor event for the acoustics and creation of a professional event.</p> <p>UU have offered use of the Diamond instead which would have implications regarding the bigger size. This could be made more intimate holding around 300. The general agreement was that the smaller numbers do not offer good value for money at £190 per head. Original numbers discussed were 800-1000.</p> |         |

| NO.       |  | ACTIONS |
|-----------|--|---------|
|           | <p>L Kane voiced his frustration on how the whole event and date was planned because of the offer of the marquee which is now not being used.</p> <p>R Holmes pointed out the lack of commitment from people if the tickets are free. How many tickets will need to be issued to reach the full capacity. N Dalcz advised that UU aim towards 30% no shows so over allocate tickets. However, the Diamond lighting can be reduced to the rear also to create a more intimate setting and advised P Thompson to come and view the facility.</p> <p>The Chair asked about the release of tickets, when and how this would be done. P Thompson advised it would need to be managed online through Eventbrite or similar and that it would require multi agency promotion, such as Ulster Scots, as there are certain sections of the community that the event will appeal more to.</p> <p>Following L&amp;D Committee, the itinerary will be confirmed to be ready to promote.</p> <p>The Chair asked if everyone was content with the programme as noted, no objections were received.</p> |         |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Draft Budget</b>  |         |
|           | <p>J Welsh referred to the draft budget, previously circulated.</p> <p>£302,620 – Total Budget</p> <p>£170,00 – LEP Funded Global Gateway</p> <p>£33,500 from within current Arts/Museums budgets</p> <p>£99,120 Additional Council Funded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £25,000 Daytime event 4<sup>th</sup> July</li> <li>• £57,000 Evening event 4<sup>th</sup> July</li> <li>• £5,620 - Courthouse Event – 4 course dinner designed and prepared by Paula McIntyre.</li> <li>• £11,500 additional Arts/Museums</li> </ul> <p>For the Committee report expected participant numbers will be required to help show value for money.</p>  |         |

| NO. |  | ACTIONS |
|-----|--|---------|
|     | <p>D Nicholl highlighted the amount of contribution required by council and that £82,000 was for only one day. The figures will be scrutinised as concerns over value for money may be raised at the Council meeting. There needs to be a full breakdown of costs.</p> <p>The Chair agreed that it needs to show value for money and that the costs need to be scrutinised. L Kane highlighted that some of the activities would have been happening anyway and have been rethemed which needs to be clearly shown.</p> <p>J Welsh advised that additional staff costs above normal working hours also need to be considered. P Thompson stated that these costs have already been included within the 4<sup>th</sup> July events. It was decided that the specifics of the report could be discussed further offline.</p>   |         |
| 7.  | <b>PRONI Working Group Overview and Update</b>   |         |
|     | <p>The Chair handed over to D. Huddleston from PRONI to provide an update.</p> <p>D. Huddleston thanked the Chair for the opportunity to present and noted the similarities between CCG programme and that of the NI/USA Cultural WG which was formed back in 2024. Over the past 2 years a range of stakeholders have worked together to develop a programme with the objective of raising awareness of the 250th anniversary within NI and the contribution people here made to the founding and shaping of the USA. Highlighting the role the Ulster Scots played in areas such as politics, religion, music, culture and the arts.</p> <p>The Programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop partnerships – Tourism /visitors now and in the future.</li> <li>• Create a legacy to build on – Future opportunities and projects.</li> <li>• Provide funding opportunities local and national.</li> </ul> <p>An MOU is in place between DfC and the United States Semiquincentennial Commission.and they have been working together leading on commemorations across the USA including the Superbowl and Artemis.</p> <p>The programme is now at delivery stage.</p> <p>Funded projects include UU to include conferences, educational workshops. £50k Ulster Scots Liberty Quilt.</p> <p>Unfinished Broadside £20k.</p> |         |

| NO. |  | ACTIONS  |
|-----|--|--|
|     | <p>Cullybackey Community Association £8k, links to Arthur's Cottage, talks and booklet.</p> <p>P Mulvenna raised a query about funding eligibility for councils, only community groups were eligible? D Huddleston confirmed that a partnership approach would have been required as only community groups could apply. There was also a closed call for national organisations.</p> <p>Events will be taking place at Ulster American Folk Park and Hillsborough and PRONI have a series of talks/events scheduled from May-July.</p> <p>DfC have a dedicated events page on which details of any events can be shared and promoted.</p> <p>P Mulvenna advised that CCG are part of a joint council working group which holds monthly meetings around the scheduling of events. D Huddleston confirmed he is attending a meeting next week and can discuss the plans of other councils.</p> <p>P Thompson enquired about use of DfC branding. It can be used but there is a process to follow which is available on the website.</p> <p>L Kane asked about any other events scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. There is an evening concert being hosted by Ulster Scots at Belfast City Hall. No other major events are scheduled.</p> <p>The Chair enquired about using the quilt/booklet as a resource for council exhibitions. Potentially yes as some elements will be touring. Once details have been received from Ulster Scots, D Huddleston will share to allow CCG to reach out.</p> <p>The Chair thanked D Huddleston for the update.</p> <p>Discussion followed on remaining with the 4<sup>th</sup> July date now that the marquee was not being used. The events could be moved back to September to allow more time to prepare and to extend the tourist season. However, this change may not work with the university and students coming back, and all dialogue with UU and planning of programme/ discussion with acts was based around 4<sup>th</sup> July. All agreed not to waste more time and to continue to work towards the 4<sup>th</sup> July.</p> | <p>DH to share details of touring elements once available.</p> |
| 8.  | <b>Any Other Relevant Business</b>   |  |
|     | P Thompson advised that as time is short following agreement at L&D, plans would be progressing at risk in advance of the full council meeting.  |  |
| 9.  | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  |  |

| NO. |  | ACTIONS |
|-----|--|---------|
|     | Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May, 7pm.<br>The Chair thanked everyone for their input to date. |         |



**Causeway  
Coast & Glens  
Borough Council**

**USA 250 Working Group  
Monday 11 May 2026, 7pm  
Via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:**

**Elected Members** Ald A. Callan (Chair), Cllrs P. Anderson, N. Archibald, T. Elder, L. Kane, L. Peacock

**Officers** S. Calvin, E. Doherty, P. Mulvenna, P. Thompson, J. Welsh

**External Organisations** None

| NO. |  | ACTIONS |
|-----|--|---------|
| 1.  | <b>Welcome</b>   |         |
|     | The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.  |         |
| 2.  | <b>Apologies</b>   |         |
|     | Apologies received from:<br>Cllr R. Holmes, G. Fall, N. McGurk (CCG)   |         |
| 3.  | <b>Notes of the Previous Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>   |         |
|     | Previously circulated, no issues raised.   |         |
| 4.  | <b>Matters Arising</b>   |         |
|     | None raised.   |         |
| 5.  | <b>Signature Event</b>   |         |
|     | The Chair advised that the main focus of the meeting would be the signature event following the change at the recent Council meeting to move it to a later date.<br><br>P Anderson expressed surprise that the cancellation of the evening event was proposed at the Committee meeting. There was no previous discussion, and it wasn't raised at any Working Group meetings. Any concerns should be raised within the meetings to prevent further work being carried out with a similar outcome at committee/council. |         |

| NO. |   | ACTIONS |
|-----|---|---------|
|     | <p>L Peacock stated that the Working Group has no powers and with costs spiralling, the current global climate, lack of appetite within the local community and expensive elements, it represents poor value for money, and it is time to rethink the approach.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that P Thompson could look at a range of options/costs including a scaled back event. PM highlighted the need to advise which aspects were no longer to be included.</p> <p>L Peacock mentioned the high cost of the play. P Thompson made a comparison to costs incurred by a local music society whether the event is for 1 day or 1 week. It is a cultural event and the play ties in very well. An overview of the costs was provided again.</p> <p><b>Afternoon Event</b> £25k</p> <p><b>Evening Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entertainment £10k</li> <li>Unfinished Broadside £15k<br/>Including stage management</li> <li>Marketing £5k</li> <li>AV/staging/lighting £10k</li> <li>Staffing £10k</li> <li>Refreshments £8k</li> </ul> <p>A discussion followed around the option to charge a small entrance fee to cover some of the costs but there were differing opinions on whether this would affect attendance levels. PM advised ANBC do charge a small fee for the Party in the Park (£2.50) which has been rebranded this year for USA250.</p> <p>As other councils were rebranding existing events, other options were explored following the suggestion to tie the USA250 event into an existing event the council is already planning.</p> <p>P Anderson suggested Salmon &amp; Whiskey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension to the event on the Friday instead of blending the whole event.</li> <li>• Would be tight for space at this location.</li> <li>• Would need to be on a smaller scale.</li> <li>• Could cause security and parking problems which the university wouldn't have.</li> </ul> |         |

| NO.       |  | ACTIONS  |
|-----------|--|--|
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armed Forces Day was due to have a USA element which was removed due to wider community sensitivities.</li> <li>• PSNI may have concerns with this approach.</li> </ul> <p>N Archibald suggested tying in with Halloween due to strong links with traditions in the USA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Already hold events at UU for Halloween so could tie in additional elements.</li> <li>• Could also tie in with Flowerfield Halloween events.</li> </ul> <p>L Peacock suggested Atlantic Sessions due to the music connections which provide a natural link.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could be Atlantic / Transatlantic Sessions which would be relatively straightforward.</li> <li>• Could be a series of themed indoor musical sessions along with speakers held across multiple venues.</li> <li>• Flowerfield could also be an option for themed talks.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that P Thompson look at options and bring a paper back for decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check availability with UU for September dates for a less expensive event.</li> <li>• Option for adding on to the Salmon and Whiskey Festival.</li> <li>• Options for linking in with Halloween / Atlantic Sessions.</li> </ul> <p>With Committee timing the next meeting was scheduled at an earlier date, following the Annual meeting, to allow discussion prior to the report being included at the June meeting. Would be a one item agenda.</p> | <p>P Thompson to bring back event options.</p> |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Thanksgiving Dinner</b>   |  |
|           | <p>The Chair advised that to work around Paula McIntyre's availability and to include the US consulate, the proposed date is now Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December rather than on thanksgiving itself. The event will be hosted by the Mayor and will have maximum capacity of 80.</p> <p>Main focus of the evening:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) History of Thanksgiving.</li> <li>2) Celebration of connections to the borough.</li> <li>3) The Economic Story – Current business links/success, future links and opportunities.<br/>Can also tie in with LEP delegation visit to the US planned in the autumn. American Ireland Fund / INI.</li> <li>4) Civic element – Twinning with Coleraine in North Carolina.</li> </ol>   |  |

| NO.       |   | ACTIONS  |
|-----------|---|--|
|           | <p>L Kane emphasised the importance of having a purpose for the dinner and understanding what it is to achieve. NI 100 dinner was aiming to sell the borough as a destination. The economic links would be important this time.</p> <p>T Elder agreed that focus would be on connections, community and economics. Golf links to USA, CCGHT/ restaurants.</p> <p>The Chair advised that Paula McIntyre also hoped to showcase the food connections through showing of short films while she was out in America with a 'Coast to Coast' strapline.</p> <p>E Doherty highlighted the need to plan early to get speakers confirmed. What are the themes, who needs approached, clarification around the Twinning element?</p> <p>Twining is a new element which is a civic ceremonial link with the LEP delegation going to America.</p> <p>Regarding speakers, the Mayor, a representative from the US Consulate and someone to talk on the historical element. L Peacock suggested Keith Beattie who would have the historical knowledge.</p> <p>E Doherty also requested input on the guest list. It was agreed that Members look at potential invitees and report back at the next meeting. E Doherty is also to contribute suggestions based on similar Mayoral events.</p> | <p>Elected Members / E Doherty to look invitees to dinner.</p> |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>PR</b>   |  |
|           | <p>The first museums event is launching on 15<sup>th</sup> May, Showbusiness, Culture and the Causeway Coast and all Members have received an invite to attend. J Welsh requested attendance of WG members for the photocall scheduled at 1pm.</p> <p>A request has also been made to officers to provide an update on confirmed events, dates, details to allow a landing webpage to be compiled. A request will be made to DfC to use their logo. They need informed each time the logo is being used although there is a fairly quick turnaround. Now that the report has been to committee, PR will need to be involved with support also provided from Arts Marketing staff. It will be a similar approach to previous programmes but there are less resources.</p>  |  |

| NO.       |  | ACTIONS |
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|           | It was confirmed that Amanda Hamilton is the contact regarding a PR plan. A few lines from the Mayor on the programme will also be required. |         |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Any Other Relevant Business</b>   |         |
|           | None   |         |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  |         |
|           | Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 8pm. Bann View Committee and via MS Teams. Focus on signature event.  |         |